

The Leader

"THE one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—HUMBOLDT'S COSMOS.

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VOL. II.—No. 53.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1851.

PRICE 6d.

News of the Week.

The great division on Lord John Russel's Anti-Papal Bill has superseded the interest in the fag-end of the debate. Lord Arundel and Surrey's amendment against the second reading was negatived by 438 to 95. But, asks everybody, what does this majority mean? For it is at once put out of the question that the majority was one for Ministers. Probably it is not a majority for the bill; possibly not even for the principle; but simply a majority for the second reading—for going on one stage more. The minority consisted mainly of Irish Members, English Roman Catholics, Young Englanders, and the stanchest supporters of religious liberty. With the supporters of the Ministry the majority confounded many who acted in mere dislike of the Pope, many in deference to that dislike among the public; others in a special fear of their own constituents, and some sent the bill forward with the expectation of seeing it mangled in committee. The majority, therefore, means nothing very definite; certainly not a vote of confidence in Ministers.

The closing nights brought forward speeches that ought not to be forgotten, especially those of Mr. George Smythe and Mr. Gladstone. Mr. Smythe lent the currency of his eloquence to a startling truth, which falls in well with the opinion of the New Reformationists in Italy. "Rome," he said, "has gone beyond the Government of England in the spirit of the principle which decrees that none shall pay for a faith other than his own;" "she has read in England the first bins of those free nuptials between Liberty and Faith—between Modern Liberty and Ancient Faith, which, in his conscience, he believed in no remote age would yet regenerate mankind." Mr. Gladstone's speech was an argumentative exposition of the facts that the bill is needless, impotent, and impolitic. It is remarkable for containing the bitterest, though quietest, remark in the debate:—

"The noble Lord distinctly stated, unless I am mistaken, that the appointment of bishops was not a spiritual but a temporal act."

Lord JOHN RUSSELL.—"I referred to the opinion of Dr. Twiss."

Mr. GLADSTONE.—"I should be glad to know what opinion the noble Lord has. That, however, I am not likely to get."

Miss Talbot's case has grown from a mere episode in the debate to a substantive topic of general discussion in Parliament and Law Court, newspaper and drawing-room. The whole case lies in a nutshell. Miss Talbot is an heiress under age, protected by her half uncle, the Earl of Shrewsbury, her testamentary guardian Dr. Doyle, and the Lord Chancellor. Her stepfather, Mr. Craven Berkeley, suddenly conceives an anxiety lest the fortune of £50,000 should be brought up upon Catholic principles as well as the young lady that

[TOWN EDITION.]

belongs to it; and incontinently he raises a bother which deranges all the young lady's plans and exhibits the Berkeley zeal. The true checks against any danger of conventional oppression lie in the direction of the bill initiated by Mr. Lacy and Mr. Spooner for the registration and visitation of convents; but of course that measure will not be passed with any enactments so ferocious as that which makes assault in a religious house *felony*!

Meanwhile, scandal and prejudice do not check the transitions to Rome, still less the tendency. Mr. Bennett may be driven out of the Church, and his ornate chancel may be despoiled; the statistics of the *Church and State Gazette*,—which reports a hundred Oxford fellows, professors, and graduates to have gone over to Rome, and seventeen hundred clergymen to have denied the supremacy of the Crown,—may be exaggerated; but the fact remains, that clergymen, laymen, and even families, continue to make the transit; and we believe that the process is *stimulated* by the outburst of persecuting spirit.

Among the Ministerial measures promised was Chancery Reform, which Lord John promulgated on Thursday. The new "Reform" seems to be a mere tinkering, shifting, botching attempt to evade a real measure, such as the public expected.

Out of doors the principal movement just now takes the shape of labouring or agricultural discontent. The Irish Tenant League has been defeated at Dungarvan, but defeat has only added to the rankling, which shows itself in "exclusive dealing"; and, although it has failed at an election, the Tenant League spirit has given a new impulse to resistance of rent-paying even in the discreet North. In England, we have the Essex farmers proclaiming low wages as the correlatives of free-trade prices—and high rents; while the Suffolk labourers are to be tried for the riot in Barham Workhouse.

It is not surprising that the accompaniment of this feeling should be a great increase of crime. The fact is remarked by Mr. Justice Cresswell at Liverpool Assizes, as rendered the more extraordinary by the "prosperity" which gives employment to the working classes; but, if Mr. Justice Cresswell were better acquainted with the actual state of the working classes, he would know that the employment is singularly partial and capricious.

For example, close observers note a marked decline in the state of Leeds, while Bradford could recently boast a "roaring" trade of nearly three years' duration; and we saw not long since a curious sign of prosperity among the weavers of Carlisle. In Glasgow they are building a new prison to provide for the increase of crime.

The fact is, that much of our "prosperity" is that of traders and manufacturers, whose "employment" is given in great part to *machinery*, and not to living human hands; although employment is the condition of existence. That is one sweeping reason why the "prosperity" is in vain for the poor, and why crime increases among them. A

London magistrate is much scandalized at a combination among the coopers to prevent their fellows from accepting employment where machinery is used; they have carried their organization so far that they can now do without its *ostensible* use, acting singly, but not the less surely; and coercing masters by refusing to work with men who break their rules. It is of little use to say that in the long run the men are generally conquered: the combination at least defers their day of defeat, and does remind the employing and legislating classes that there are human beings to be considered. But the men are wrong to seek their safety in combinations which the past show to be untenable, and only of temporary use: the real source of their calamity lies in the system of competition; that system is no longer upheld with the blind reliance of twenty years ago; on the contrary, opinions in favour of concert are now tolerated, nay discussed, even in our great Quarterlies; and daily have we signs that they are making their way in every class of society and in every part of the country—from the Chartist Association, whose Convention assembles next week, to the "highest" orders, from manufacturing Manchester to rustic Weston-super-Mare.

The Continental news of this week may be looked upon as a mere repetition of the news of last week. Austria and Prussia are said to have come at last to a definitive settlement of their business. Austria will have the Presidency of the Diet, and will share with the rival power the Presidency of the Executive Committee. Although the report is given by official papers in Berlin, the news is too good for Prussia to be true.

In France, the impossibility of revising the Constitution before May, 1852, begins to appear obvious to all interested parties. There is, therefore, some probability that a scheme set on foot by the Club of the Rue des Pyramids, for putting off the Presidential election till 1854, will meet with a favourable reception. The law of the 31st of May will, probably, be applied to all electoral purposes.

Austria is binding Italy with a net of her own railways. A line is to run from Venice to Leghorn, crossing Lombardy, the Duchies of Parma and Modena, the Legations and Tuscany. All the commercial interests of those countries will be sacrificed to the military exigencies of the ruling power. *Woe to the conquered!*

In London has just happened an event both of foreign and domestic importance—Lord Lyndhurst's call upon Ministers to renew the Alien Act, in order to expel the representatives of foreign patriots now amongst us. Lord Grey's answer may be interpreted as a refusal to interfere, and a hinted request to the refugee patriots that they be discreet. We are glad to see that a Grey declines to act as an agent of Austrianism; scarcely less glad that Lyndhurst, unenergized by age, has brought the Whig Ministers to the test. *England* will not be made the tool of Austria.

PARLIAMENT OF THE WEEK.

PAPAL AGGRESSION—THE ADJOURNED DEBATE.

The debate of Monday presented nothing remarkable, except that the House did not break up till two hours after midnight. The speakers in favour of the bill were—Mr. MONCKTON MILNES, Mr. GRANTLEY BERKELEY, Mr. F. H. BERKELEY, and Lord CASTLE-RAGH. Those against it were—Mr. FAGAN, Mr. SMYTH, Mr. SADLER, Sir J. YOUNG, Mr. BERESFORD HOPE, and Mr. GRATTAN. The most notable speech of the evening was that of Mr. SMYTH, who described the measure as “a sham bill of sham pains and sham penalties against a sham aggression.” After alluding to the Whig alliance with the Catholic party for political purposes, he went on to condemn the manner in which they sought to repudiate “the bride of their not illegitimate and certainly not impulsive bigamy”:

“In a far different spirit—in the spirit of a wise and far-seeing and courageous statesman—the Secretary of State for the Colonies had not hesitated to accord to Catholic prelates in our colonies those titles which would have been accorded to them by Mr. Pitt; and, knowing that we governed St. Lucia by French laws, and Barbadoes by Dutch laws, and Trinidad by Spanish laws, had seen no reason why we should not give Catholic bishops to Malta and to our Catholic fellow-subjects in the British colonies. Why, then, should not Catholic laws and Catholic bishops be given to the Catholics in Ireland, and Catholic laws and Catholic bishops to Catholics in England? (*Hear.*) What had the Pope really done? He had accorded certain territorial titles, but with no territorial faculties. The title of ‘Archbishop of Westminster’ involved no more territorial faculties than did the title of ‘King of Cyprus’ borne by the King of Sardinia, or the title of ‘King of Jerusalem’ borne by the King of the Two Sicilies. It involved no more territorial faculties than did the title of ‘King of France,’ which was borne by three Electors of Hanover constituted Kings of England, or than did the title of ‘King of England’ when borne by King James III., Charles III., and Henry IX. Although the Legislature of England proscribed those princes, they were still, in their own words, ‘Dei gratia, non voluntate hominum’ Kings of England to the consciences of some at least among their subjects. They might legislate as they pleased, and proscribe Dr. Wise man as they would, yet still ‘Dei gratia, non voluntate hominum,’ he would be still primate of all England in the consciences at least of many of the Catholic subjects of this realm. (*Hear, hear.*) The principle was one which defied legislation, because it was ‘in foro conscientiae,’ between man and God. It reminded him of the old doggerel of the Jacobites:—

“God bless the King, God bless the faith’s defender,
God bless—there is no harm in blessing—the Pretender;
But who is that, and who the King,
God bless us all,—that’s quite another thing.”

It was absurd to talk, in these days, of Papal power as anything very dangerous in a Protestant country. “Men had only not to believe, and the Pope’s jurisdiction ceased and determined.” Alluding to the voluntaryism of the Church of Rome, he said:—

“The Pope had given the most signal, the most startling, the most transcendent range to the voluntary principle. For the first time in history, by the side of an Established Church, he had connected the highest grades of the Romish hierarchy with the voluntary principle. (*Hear, and cheers.*) He remembered to have read in one of the debates of the Long Parliament, in the speech of the Puritan Member for Kent, Sir Edward Dering, of a medieval legend, which stated that when Christianity first exchanged the persecution of the Roman Emperor for the smiles, and the favours, and the moneys of Constantine, the voice of an angel was heard crying and wailing in the air,—‘*Hodie in ecclesiam venenum infunditur.*’ From this medieval myth Rome had extracted and deduced a profound political truth. What was it that rendered her so powerful—more powerful than at any time he had read of in the annals of the church—so powerful that 10,000 bayonets had been sent to her support by the universal suffrage of France, at the cost of the universal suffrage of France—(*cheers*)—that, day by day, voluntary restitutions of church property were taking place in Spain; that in one second, by one stroke of Prince Schwarzenberg’s pen, the rationalistic bigotry and the Josephist apologetics of a hundred years had been annulled? One sole fact,—that, bit by bit, and year after year, she had learned to withdraw herself from State connexion and ecclesiastical domination. (*Hear, hear.*) Thus she had been enabled to present to the world the unique spectacle of a pauper hierarchy by the side of a largely salaried episcopate—(*hear, hear*);—that pauper hierarchy recognized and prayed for by universal Christendom—that salaried episcopate not recognized, and not prayed for, and not sympathized in, out of the British Empire. At the head of that hierarchy she had sent a prince of the church—one who, Lord Powis stated in one of his admirable speeches, would take precedence even of the Prince Consort in every Court of the Continent of Europe; but she had sent him with the wallet of the mendicant beneath the robes of the cardinal, dependent on the alms of those who chose to believe. (*Cheers.*) Rome had in this, at least, gone far beyond the Government of England in the spirit of that principle, which decreed that none should pay for a faith other than his own. She had flung far down a warning truth into a posterity which would not be ungrateful for the boon. (*Cheers.*) She had gone further; she had read in England the first hints of those free nuptials between liberty and faith—between modern liberty and ancient faith, which, in his conscience he believed, in no remote age would yet regenerate mankind. (*Cheers.*)”

The House had become very tired of the discussion by midnight, and when Mr. A. B. Hope rose to speak he was interrupted by loud calls for a division. He persisted, however, in finishing his protest against the bill, and then Mr. HORHOUSE moved the adjournment. Lord JOHN RUSSELL tried to persuade the House to come to a division; twenty-six members had spoken against the bill and twenty-two for it. They might debate the question for six days longer without eliciting any new argument. Mr. MOORE thought it would be injustice to Ireland if the debate were terminated so soon. They had not occupied above five or six hours of the debate, while some fourteen or sixteen hours had been taken up by the speakers on the other side. Mr. SCULLY reminded Lord John that there were some thirty-five or forty Catholic members in the House, only seven of whom had spoken yet. Sir GEORGE GREY said that no less than fourteen Irish members had addressed the House, and the time they had occupied was eleven hours and a half. Mr. M. O’CONNELL wished to speak on the question, but would not address a jaded audience at that late hour. The Earl of ARUNDEL and SURREY agreed with those who wished to bring the debate to a close as speedily as possible. But only consider that out of thirty-seven Catholics in the House only seven had yet spoken. Lord JOHN wondered when the discussion would close if all the other thirty Catholic members should insist upon speaking. The House having divided on the question of adjournment, the motion was negatived by 414 against 64; but as it was evident that the opposition would be renewed, Lord John gave way.

The opponents of the bill had the larger share of the speaking on Tuesday evening. The debate was opened by Mr. HORHOUSE, who thought the Church of England was in much greater danger from infidelity than from the Church of Rome. “These debates would give great advantage to scoffers and infidels, enabling them to point to the scandals of the Church.” The right course for Government to take with the Romish hierarchy was to ignore its existence. Mr. PORTAL, the new Member for Hants, fully shared in the general feeling of indignation at the Papal aggression, but, as he believed the bill to be mockery and delusion, unworthy of the age, of the wisdom of Parliament, and of the national dignity, he would oppose the further progress of a measure which was just large enough to satisfy the Protestants of England. Mr. JOHN O’CONNELL praised the speech of Sir James Graham, as reflecting the highest honour upon him. “It was full of hope, not so much perhaps for Ireland as for England.” He defended the Synod of Thirls, in their opposition to the colleges. “It was the duty of the Roman Catholic prelates to denounce them. The law of the land had no right to say that the children of Catholics should be educated in infidelity.” Mr. LAWLESS, although a Protestant, followed on the same side. He accused Lord John of having introduced the bill under false pretences. He had said that the word ‘mummuries,’ in his letter to the Bishop of Durham, referred to the Puseyites. Why then not introduced some measure to stop the progress of Puseyism? Mr. MUNTER stuck to the aggression point, that was the only question of any value. The Pope had made “a premeditated and most impudent attack on the Protestant religion of this country,” which ought to be repelled; and, therefore, he would vote for the bill. Mr. SCULLY warned Lord John, that the cry of “the Church in danger,” had always brought evil. Mr. HUME, as a Protestant and an Englishman, gave his hearty opposition to the bill. He considered the introduction of such a measure as by far the most unfortunate occurrence which had taken place during the long period of his parliamentary experience. The only point on which he differed from the eloquent, brilliant, and powerful speech of Sir James Graham was, in not thinking that there had been any act of aggression on the part of the Pope:—

“If they passed this bill, how were they to govern Ireland? What was the reason that the right honourable gentleman, the member for Windsor, who was also the Attorney-General for Ireland, had not risen in his place before now, and explained the probable operation of the bill in that country?—[This observation was received with the most vehement cries of ‘*Hear, hear!*’ from the Irish members, who take a most terrible retribution on the Irish Attorney-General for the anxiety which he invariably evinced to avoid taking any part in Irish debates, by receiving every allusion to his name with shouts of derision.]—It was the bounden duty of the right honourable gentleman, the Attorney-General for Ireland, to explain the provisions of this bill as they would affect that country, of which he was the first law officer. (*Thunder of applause from the Irish members.*) I have him in my eye,” continued Mr. Hume, “he is sitting below me, and I want to know why he has not taken part in this debate, and why he has not officially explained to the House his views upon this question?—[In uttering these words, Mr. Hume, to make himself more impressive, leant over the shoulder of a portly gentleman who was sitting just below him on the Treasury bench, and thundered his moving appeal into his slumbering ear. The member in question suddenly waked as from a trance, and, turning up his head in the direction of Mr. Hume, revealed the features, not of the successor of Lord Plunkett, but of Mr. Bernal. This mistake evoked a peal of

merriment, which grew faster and more furious when the Attorney-General emerged from a position of obscurity, where he had been overshadowed by Sir George Grey, and proceeded to make inquiries of those around him, as though he were wholly unconscious of what had been going on.]—He (Mr. Hume) believed it was the duty of the right honourable gentleman to address the House on this question, and to relieve their anxiety with respect to the probable operation of the bill in Ireland, and it was to be hoped he would do so.—[Renewed merriment, in the midst of which Mr. Hatchell collapsed into his usual state of reverie, and, drawing his hat over his brow, appeared to have delivered himself to that delicious languor which occasionally supervenes on tremendous physical exertions.]—For his own part, he (Mr. Hume) was persuaded that the bill would be as distasteful to the people of Ireland in one clause as in four, and he should vote against it as a measure of persecution unworthy of the country and of the legislature. (*Loud cheers.*)

Sir F. THREIGER spoke at great length against the bill, which he characterized as “puerile and absurd,” but declared his intention to vote for the second reading, because he thought that legislation was absolutely necessary, and because, bad as it was, he preferred the minimum of legislation proposed by the noble lord to no legislation at all. Mr. GLADSTONE, while admitting the existence of serious interests divisions in the Church of England protested against any attempt to meet the spiritual dangers of the church by temporal legislation of a penal character. Those dangers might be met by a spirit of temporal wisdom; but he did not believe that they could be cured by remedies which had been tried before, under circumstances a thousand times more favourable than the present, and had utterly and entirely failed. If the Pope, or the Roman Catholic bishops should interfere with our temporal affairs in such a manner as would not be permitted to any other body of milicians, Parliament would be bound to intercede. But till they did overstep the line Parliament had no right to interfere, or to deny them any right or liberty which it gave to other bodies of Christians. He fully agreed with those who considered the language used in the Pope’s brief, and the archbishop’s pastoral relating to the appointment of the hierarchy as “posteriorly inflated, vain, boastful, and impudent, and distinctly meriting complaint and reprobation in the strongest terms.” But the Roman Catholic body was not responsible for that language, and therefore it was unjust to make them suffer. We must look to the substance of the act, and by that stand or fall. If the law of nations had been broken, nothing was more disparaging to the enemy than to proceed only by act of Parliament imposing a penalty. There was nothing to prevent our representing the wrong to the party who had done it, and demanding redress. He then proceeded to point out various deficiencies and anomalies in the bill, which he said, did not defend the territorial rights of the Crown; and with respect to Romish aggression, there was a preliminary question,—whether the rescript of the Pope had a temporal character. That the Roman Catholics recognized the Pope as their spiritual head did not justify the withholding one jot of religious freedom. It was not enough that bishops were appointed by a foreign authority; it must be shown that they are not spiritual officers, but appointed for temporal purposes. If the appointment of bishops *per se* was a spiritual not a temporal act, why interfere with the Roman Catholic bishops? If it was *per se* a temporal act, why exempt the South bishops? Then as regards Ireland, it appeared that the Attorney-General’s speech that, after all the flourishes about the Queen’s supremacy, the unity of the two countries, and the impartial application of the same law to both, Ministers did not intend to carry out the same principle in Ireland as in England. But the whole measure was a bundle of inconsistencies. He went on to show that the question relating to the establishment of a Roman Catholic diocesan episcopacy was one upon which the Church of Rome had long been divided. Ever since the Reformation there had been two parties in the Roman Catholic body. The bulk of the laity and of the secular clergy had followed one line of policy—the regular orders, especially the Jesuits and the Order of Rome, had followed another. The Moderate party, whenever they had had breathing time, had struggled for this very measure of a diocesan episcopacy. The extreme party represented by the cardinals around the Papal throne, and the Jesuits, had been all along struggling against it. For the last three hundred years the mass of the laity had been engaged in seeking for this measure, while they had been opposed by the Ultramontanists. The establishment of the local principle would give to every class in the Roman Catholic Church certain fixed and intelligible rights.

They were told that the high Papal interest was gaining ground in the Church of Rome, that the system was becoming more closely knit, its discipline more and more rigid, and that the scope allowed to freedom was from year to year diminished. He presumed that, as the Parliament had a right to interfere at all, they would wish, if they could, to stop that baneful tendency; but it was his deep conviction that the course they were now taking, so far from tending to stop that course of action, had a tendency directly the reverse. (*Hear and Cheers.*) They were throwing back the Roman Catholics upon the Pope—(*hear*)—they were annoying them with a little

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miniature of a penal law. (*Hear, hear.*) It had been said, in taunt, to a right honourable friend of his, that he had not yet made up his mind whether this measure was a nullity or a persecution. If it was a measure that wounded, that insulted—(*hear*)—that put upon paper a declaration of religious inequality—(*hear, hear*)—then it might be a nullity as respected giving satisfaction to the public feeling of England, but it was a persecution as regarded the consciences of Roman Catholics—(*cheers*)—and both a nullity and a persecution in their essence might very well be combined, and had, he feared, been combined in this little measure. (*'Hear,' and cheers.*) If they wished to exercise a beneficial influence over the Roman Catholics, he called upon Parliament to reverse their policy—to endeavour to attach them by a kindly legislation, to deal out to them in the strictest manner equal justice—(*hear, hear*)—to repress with the greatest mildness and vigour in them, as in all other religious bodies, any disposition to aggression upon the temporal power, but subject to that limitation to deal with them kindly. It was admitted the Roman Catholics of England had been distinguished by their loyalty. They had, then, something to work upon; feelings and affections which they might turn to account. (*Cheers.*) But if they drove the Roman Catholics back upon the Pope—if they met them with enactments which showed their disposition to go backwards, they could only expect to find the Catholics alienated and estranged in England, where they were a body comparatively insignificant in numbers, and to find that the difficulties they would have to encounter on the other side of the Channel, where the Catholics formed an overwhelming majority, would be greatly increased."

The noble lord (Lord John) had appealed to them the other night in the names of Hampden and Pym. He (Mr. Gladstone) had a reverence for those men because they were engaged in resisting oppression, but he would rather have Hampden and Pym quoted upon any other question than upon legislation against Roman Catholics, because there was one blot on their pantheon, and on the character of their party, it was that bitter and ferocious intolerance which in them became more painful and odious, because it was directed against Roman Catholics at home. (*Hears.*) Mr. DIBBLELL could not agree with Mr. Roebuck and those opponents of the bill who described the Pope as a poor and feeble priest. The Pope was a prince of very great power, if not the greatest. Between regular and secular clergy he had at his command an army of one million priests, governed by a thousand bishops and archbishops. It was absurd to say that power was to be treated in the same manner, and considered in the same spirit as the Wesleyan conference, or to be associated with the last invention of Scotch dissenters. It was a gross mistake to discuss this question on abstract grounds. Let them look to the actual circumstances of the day. On the one hand a great revival of Catholicism in Europe, and on the other a counter-revival of Protestantism in England. What might be the issue of the impending struggle between the two conflicting principles no one could foretell. The possible result was one which made him shudder. Meantime, it was the duty of Government to adopt such a course as was best calculated to avert these evils. After discussing the Government measure he urged that a better proceeding was suggested by Lord Stanley—to rest satisfied at present with a formal protest, and found a vigorous measure upon fuller information. Dwelling upon the faults and fallacies contained in the bill, he yet felt himself debarr'd from criticism, because, not being a friend of Lord John Russell's, he was bound to respect his feelings. Believing the measure utterly insufficient, he should vote for the second reading for the same reason as that urged by Sir F. Thesiger, stating his hope that it might be improved in another stage. Adverting to some passages in the address of Sir J. Graham, he alluded to the probable junction of the right honourable baronet with the Ministry, and predicted that no Government could stand which did not make the preservation of our Protestant Constitution the guiding star of their policy. Sir GEORGE GREY viewed the measure not as an attack upon the liberties of others, but a defence of our own. He contended that the Legislature was justified in interfering, and the Government well advised in constructing the bill now before the House. After a few remarks from Mr. P. HOWARD, the House divided, when the numbers were:—

For the second reading	438
For the amendment	95
Majority	343

Lord JOHN RUSSELL stated that on Monday, he would fix a day for the bill going into committee. He would not appoint a day before a fortnight after the Easter recess. He proposed to take the Army Estimates on Friday, and would then state when the Budget would be proposed. The House adjourned at a quarter past three till Thursday.

Lord LYNDHURST, in the House of Lords, on Tuesday evening, called the attention of Ministers to the proceedings of "The Central National Italian Committee," in London, whose object was to keep up a spirit of insurrection in Italy, with a view to the establishment of a central republic in that country. After referring to the loan which had been opened in London for promoting the republican cause in Italy, he went on to say that unless

these proceedings were put down, the revolutionists on the Continent would fancy that the British Government was favourable to their designs, while our allies would naturally view the conduct of Ministers with suspicion. Another society to which he wished to call attention was "The Central Domestic European Committee," formed for the avowed purpose of encouraging insurrectionary projects in every part of Europe. There was another case of a still more flagrant nature. There was an association called—"The Central Committee of Hungarian Refugees," who had lately prepared a proclamation of a most inflammatory character, addressed to the Hungarian troops serving in Italy, calling upon them to desert, and pointing out how they could do so with most damage to Austria. He would not recommend a public persecution, which would be slow in progress, and perhaps uncertain in its results. But he thought Government ought to renew the Alien Act, which was allowed to expire last session. Earl GREY said the matter had been under Lord Palmerston's consideration for some time, and he would, no doubt, take such steps as might be deemed necessary. As for asking Parliament to renew the Alien Act, nothing but the most urgent and flagrant necessity would warrant Government in asking, or Parliament in granting more power than the executive possesses at present. The Earl of ABERDEEN said the noble earl had not said whether he disapproved of the proceedings of the refugees. Earl GREY, in stating that Lord Palmerston now had his attention directed to the subject, thought he had announced as clearly as he could, that the Government disapproved of such proceedings. Lord JOHN RUSSELL, in moving for leave to introduce a bill sanctioning the appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor, expressed his disapproval of that division of the Lord Chancellor's functions which had been suggested. He proposed that there should be a court, to be called the Supreme Court of Chancery, or the Lord Chancellor's Court, in which should sit the Lord Chancellor, the Master of the Rolls, and one of the judges in the courts of law to be summoned from time to time; that any two of them should have the power of hearing causes, and that, in the absence of the Lord Chancellor, the other two judges should have the same power. The salary of the Lord Chancellor it was proposed to fix at £10,000, leaving the retired allowance the same as now, namely, £5,000. It was further proposed to vest the ecclesiastical patronage now administered by the Lord Chancellor in the Crown, to be exercised by the First Minister, taking the pleasure of the Crown. Several members condemned the proposed measure. Mr. ROUNDELL PALMER said he feared it would prove acceptable neither to the profession, the suitors, nor the public. Leave having been given to bring in the bill, it was read a first time.

A short discussion took place on a motion made by Mr. ANDERSON, in favour of the imposition of import duties on Spanish goods, by way of retaliation for their having imposed heavy duties on imports from England. Mr. LABOUCHERE admitted that Spain had acted in a very unfriendly and one-sided spirit in the matter; but negotiations were going on which might possibly result in a satisfactory arrangement. If not, then it might be necessary to adopt retaliatory measures. After a short discussion Mr. Anderson consented to leave the question in the hands of Ministers. A division was called for, however, when the numbers were:—

For the resolution.....	53
Against it.....	98
Majority against.....	— 45

FOREIGN FLOUR.—A short conversation took place in the House of Lords on Monday, on the competition to which the flour trade of England and Ireland is exposed by the large importations from France. The Earl of Desart said the mill property in Ireland was almost completely destroyed by the operation of free-trade. Earl Grey could see no cause for alarm. If any one would reflect for a single moment, he would see that it was absolutely impossible that the advantage should not be on the side of the English miller. Our machinery and mechanical ingenuity surpassed that of all other countries, and then we had the advantage of cheap coal, compared with the French. Lord Stanley did not think the cheapness of coal would be of much advantage to mills chiefly driven by water power.

THE MAIN EUROPEAN QUESTIONS.

Louis Napoleon's case stands on the following terms. In order that he may be re-elected, or that he may obtain a prolongation of his power, the Constitution of 1848 must be either revised or annihilated. Now the revision or modification of the Constitution is reserved among the exclusive attributes of the Constituent Assembly. A Constituent Assembly must result from an election on the broadest basis of universal suffrage; and the convocation of such an Assembly must be sanctioned by a majority of three-fourths of the present, or Legislative Assembly: all this must be brought to pass previous to the month of May, 1852.

It is reckoned pretty accurately, that two-thirds of the National Assembly at the present day would not

hesitate to declare in favour of a revision of the Constitution. Unfortunately, two-thirds are not equal to three-fourths, and the remaining third is made up of stubborn republicans as well as of men who have some respect for the laws of the country—such as they are; and the President has no chance whatever with the Assembly.

But the majority—those two-thirds who would be favourable to a revision of the Constitution—are the very men who brought about the electoral law of May 31, by which from three to four millions of Frenchmen were robbed of their right of vote; and they are consequently reluctant to give their consent to the election of a Constituent Assembly; an election which, by the terms of the Constitution and by the consent of all free nations, ought to be based on the suffrage of all. Any bill for a revision of that nature should, moreover, in compliance with the letter of the Constitution, go through three successive readings—at the interval of three months from each other,—and, besides, could only acquire the force of the law two months after the last reading. The present Assembly must, consequently, be at work at least eleven months, or say a year, before an appeal could be made to the sense of the nation by the means of a general election. The attainment of his object through legal means is, therefore, almost materially out of the question: and Louis Napoleon has looked in vain for a steady support to the army and the people. Vain have been the Champagne reviews: vain the triumphal progresses: vain the appeal to the Municipal Councils. And yet the difficulty is not as to the probable result of the election, but merely as to the means of coming to the election itself without too outrageous a violation of the fundamental laws of the country. The nation at large—that is, nowadays, the million of shopkeepers; the Assembly—that is, its reactionary majority—Legitimists, Orleanists, and other partisans, however personally hostile to the President, can see no safety for France—that is, no furtherance of their own views—save only in the prolongation of the present Executive.

With such a quasi-unanimity of wishes and interests, it is very clear that the knot that cannot be untied must be cut. The Club of the Rue des Pyramides, the Conservatives of the Elysée party, have given a hint as to the best means of going to work. On the motion of Léon Faucher, they propose that the electoral law of the 31st of May be adopted as an organic law, applicable to all elections, whether national, provincial, or municipal: they would move, also, that the Presidential election be postponed till the year 1854.

The scheme is sufficiently sensible, and as likely to be adopted as the bill for putting off the election of the National Guards. The only difficulty consists in finding the man who will "believe the cat." The President, it must be remembered, at the present moment has none but men of straw for a Ministry: some statesmen of name and ability is required for the job now in contemplation, and all intrigues for the formation of a coalition Cabinet have been hitherto foiled by the jealousy and bad faith of the several Conservative parties. There is only one man in all France not insuperably obnoxious to the President, and yet possessed of a sufficient authority to reconcile the French to the arbitrary measures that are now deemed indispensable for their own good—and that is, Odilon Barrot. But Odilon Barrot—blessings on his name!—is a stickler for legality. He has no objection to the revision of the constitution; but he will abide by every line of it till it is lawfully repealed: and insists that the President should begin by stepping down from his exalted position, at the expiration of his term, and withdraw into private life with all the signal self-denial of a Washington or a Jefferson.

This intimation is not of a nature to flatter the ambition of the "Nephew," who, consequently, jogs on with his present no-Ministry, with his men of "office without power."

These difficulties and uncertainties have a fatal effect on the spirits of the French nation: and as the time of the great crisis draws near, an anxious anticipation of coming storms begins to prevail. The papers are full of the stagnation in the trade and movement both of the capital and the provinces: and commercial distress in truth prepares the country for future discontent and disturbance.

Government is carried on with the greatest ease notwithstanding. Louis Napoleon and his minority Cabinet leap over all obstacles with the lightness of the winning horse at a steeple chase.

The disturbances at St. Amand, and in many other districts, arising from the drawing of the Conscription, are quelled with the least possible show of violence. All remonstrances raised in the Assembly on the subject of the dissolution of the National Guard of Strasbourg, or on the subject of the expedition against the Kabyles, are disposed of in all instances by the adoption of the *ordre du jour, pur et simple*, always by considerable majorities. Every measure the object of which is merely to knock the people on the head, is sure of strong support on the part of the obliging Legislators. The hawking of newspapers about the streets is now to be put down,

Michelet, Jacques, all the professors who aspire to the distinction of *philosophes*, are equally to be put down. The Jesuit is to lord it over the French University. It is in vain for the students to get up demonstrations in behalf of their popular instructors. The panic occasioned by the approach of their procession—the hasty shutting up of doors, the mustering of troops, the fidgeting of national representatives in their curule chairs, will not mend matters. The panic of the legislators subsides, and the professors are no less inexorably sacrificed.

What could not priests and Jesuits do in France at the present time if they could only agree amongst them? But there, as amongst us, bishops have fallen to loggerheads. He of Paris admonishes his clergy to abstain from politics; his subordinate of Chartres—a lofty old man—makes it incumbent on his priests to meddle in worldly affairs so far, at least, as to pray for confusion to the Socialists: all is thus ready for a pitched battle of the dioceses.

The Socialists of all nations, Conservative papers inform us, have directed their "men of action" to rendezvous in London for the Exhibition. The inexorable correspondent of the *Times* is at a loss to decide whether by that phrase *hommes d'action* we should understand the disciples of Louis Blanc or Proudhon, or simply "pickpockets."

Marshal Soult is reported as lying dangerously ill.

The German question may be reduced to these terms—is the world to have one or two Germanys? From the days of Frederic II. and Maria Theresa, down to the revolution of 1848, a kind of dualism had been established in that country. Prussia and Austria shared the supreme power in the Diet. But now this nice balance of power between them must either lead to a total and absolute separation, or one of the two must succumb and admit the supremacy of the other. Two weeks ago Prince Schwarzenberg had Prussia under his thumb. But the perpetual oscillation of the Prince at the head of the latter power, the watchful jealousy of the minor German States seem now to have undone all that had been agreed upon between the Dresden plenipotentiaries. Every day brings out a new plan. The Executive Power of the German Diet is to consist now of seventeen, now of nine, now even of five votes; these different numbers being suggested with a view to counterbalance the power of the two great rivals, and also to gratify the petty vanity of some of the inferior states, particularly of Bavaria, which is determined to play the part of the frog in the fable, and, we devoutly pray, may meet with its ultimate fate. By the latest news, however, it would seem that arrangements have been made on the question of the Presidency. Austria will preside in the Diet, and the two powers, Austria and Prussia, will share the Presidency of the Executive Committee.

A nominal parity of power Austria is willing to award to Prussia, but she will keep the Presidency, and, what is of greater moment, the absolute and exclusive control of the federal army for herself. Added to this, she is irremovably bent on entering the German Confederacy with all her non-German provinces—a scheme, as we have often observed, which would put all rivalry on the part of Prussia too absurdly out of the question. The remonstrances of France and England, twice and thrice repeated, have been utterly void of effect. There are those who fancy Nicholas of Russia himself begins to entertain some uneasiness of Austria's aggrandisement. But the real fact is, nevertheless, that the three northern despots have interchanged the chains of their respective orders of knighthood as an emblem of the ties of friendship and common interest that bind them, and make them more than a match for all the rest of the world. They have brought their common enemy—revolution—to the ground: and they give no sign, hitherto, of falling out, in the partition of the spoil.

Austria and Russia seem well agreed in the share each of them covets in a spoil of a different nature. Austria is still condensing her forces on the Bosnian frontiers, where, according to the latest news from Agram, the insurrection is spreading far and wide with alarming rapidity. Russia has long since glutted her ravenousness on Turkish provinces. Every popular outbreak in that decrepit State affords reasons for interference on the part of its uneasy neighbours, and, in all cases, interference is conquest. Nor is the empire only open to the invasion at its circumference. In its very centre the Porte has no slight trouble in warding off the intolerable pretensions of friends and foes.

Thus in Constantinople it is not the Sultan but the French Ambassador that grants protection. Dembinski has lately arrived in that city, and the reception of the Polish and Italian refugees, the greeting of the Garibaldi band, have been loud enough to stun and well-nigh to displease the old veteran.

In Switzerland the decree for confining the refugees to certain districts has met with less resistance than was anticipated. The ultra-democrats are losing the ascendancy in all the German and not a few of the French cantons: the remonstrances of the great powers, and especially of France, against the right of asylum abused in Switzerland, had great weight with the federal and cantonal Governments.

By the way, Prussia, Russia, and Austria are said to have asked France to join them in a remonstrance of a similar nature, with regard to the swarms of refugees that are now driven to England. France has not given her answer as yet, or we should have had Lord John Russell stepping forward before Parliament with the Alien Bill in his hand.

An unfortunate patriot has been arrested in Rome with some tickets of the Mazzini loan in his possession. Death or imprisonment for life will be the unavoidable consequence. The Mazzinians in Rome, however, nothing daunted, have issued a caution to the public, in print, giving the numbers and letters of the tickets thus seized, and warning the public against them.

The Count of Chambord has reached Modena, whence, after a short stay, he returned to Venice. The Grand Duchess of Tuscany and the Duke of Parma have arrived at Naples. Prince Leopold, uncle of the King of the Two Sicilies, died at Naples on the 10th. The Ministers of Tuscany, Parma, and Modena met at Rome, with a view to persuade the Papal Government to accede to the construction of a railway, which starting from Mantua, is to cross the legations, through Ferrara and Bologna, and hence across the Apennine, to join the Tuscan line already finished between Florence and Leghorn. All these plans are suggested in the mere interest and at the dictation of Austria, who is anxious to establish a communication between the Adriatic and the Mediterranean, for sanitary rather than for commercial purposes. Some hopes are held out to the Roman Government that the Tuscan line will be prolonged from Sienna to Rome; and with this boon the Romans must remain satisfied: as for any hope of joining the two seas by a line from Ancona to Civita Vecchia, or of establishing a direct communication between the Northern and Southern Provinces, by a line from Bologna to Rome, that enters not into the calculation of the Austrian projectors. Nor can the Papal Government object to these Austrian arrangements; since the only alternative is simply to have no railway of any kind.

The Council of State lately appointed by the Pope met for the first time on the 18th. Prince Odescalchi has been elected president of the Pontifical Academy of Science.

The Archbishops and Bishops of Tuscany have sent an address to the Grand Duke of Tuscany to remind him of his promises and sacred obligations of 1848, and to recommend the adoption of liberal measures.

The state prisoners, Poerio, Pironti, &c., condemned to the galleys for life at Naples, have been removed from Nisida, where their presence in the *bagni* had created an indescribable sensation among the most abandoned convicts, who showed them every token of reverence, and expressed the most violent indignation that such men should be doomed to their own fate—and sent to the island of Ischia, there to be thrown in a dark subterranean dungeon of the castle called Il Fosso, the ditch—a dark hole where no human beings have been shut up since the middle ages.

In the Chamber of Turin, on the 20th, the budget of public works has been adopted by 115 votes against 14. On the following day the Chamber unanimously adopted a bill for the formation of an invalid fund for the royal and mercantile navy.

General Strassoldo, the newly-appointed Imperial Lieutenant of Lombardy, reached Milan on the 18th. The Emperor of Austria left Vienna for Trieste on the 21st, and reached the latter city on the 22nd.

A poor parish priest of Ceregnano, in the Polesine, has been condemned to two years' imprisonment, for having omitted the usual prayer for the Emperor, in the celebration of the mass, on the occurrence of the Emperor's birthday, the 18th of August last. The sentence bears date of the 10th of this month.

The railway between Verona and Mantua will be opened to the public on the 31st.

The new postal regulations agreed upon between Austria and Tuscany are published in the *Vienna Gazette* of the 21st.

The Prussian Government has been taken to task in Parliament on the subject of the *levée des boucliers* of November last. At that time troops were quartered on the people without mercy, and the poor, especially in the country, have been eaten out of house and home. That *einquartierung* amounted to a very heavy and most irksome taxation; and some of the liberal members opined that Government should not have imposed it without the sanction of the Chamber. The Ministers, however, contended that they had acted under the pressure of necessity, and the Chamber admitted the plea by a majority of 164 to 108.

In a sitting of the 5th committee of Parliamentary Initiative in Munich, a motion of Prince Wallerstein has been adopted by a majority of six against three, to the effect that Government should be required to lay forthwith before the House all papers relative to the question of Electoral Hesse, and the intervention of Bavarian troops into that state. It is, of course, never supposed that the Minister Von der Pfertzen will ever accede to the demand, which, if insisted

upon, may only lead to the long-contemplated dissolution of the Chamber.

Count Alvensleben, the Prussian agent at Dresden, has had, since his return to Berlin on the 23rd inst., several interviews with the King.

M. Mercier, the French Envoy Extraordinary, on a mission to the Courts of Prussia, Austria, and Russia, has arrived at Berlin.

The Spanish Minister, Bravo Murillo, gives clear intimations of his intention to repudiate the national debt. He asks his creditors to renounce one half of their claims, when he will see what can be done for the remaining moiety.

The King of Sweden has reached Stockholm on his return from Norway, and immediately dissolved the Regency appointed to govern in his absence.

The disturbances in Norway are said to be at an end.

PROTESTANTISM AND POVERTY.

The bill brought in by Mr. Lacy and Mr. Spooner to prevent the forcible detention of females in houses wherein persons bound by religious or monastic vows are resident or associated, provides that such houses shall be registered by the clerk of the peace of the county in which it is situate; that the justices for every county in which any religious house shall be registered shall appoint six or more justices of the peace to act as visitors of each house, who shall be sworn to keep secret all such matters as shall come under their knowledge in the execution of their office as visitors, except when required to dirige the same by legal authority, or for the better execution of their duty. Registered religious houses shall be visited twice a-year, and if it appear to the visitors that any female is desirous of leaving the religious house in which she is resident, they shall have power to remove her, and to place her under the care of the matron of the union in which the religious house is situate. Superiors not causing their religious houses to be registered, or wilfully making any false statement in respect of such houses, or obstructing or impeding any of the visitors on their way to, or in, or returning from any such religious house, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour. Any person assaulting a visitor in the religious house, shall be deemed guilty of a felony. Concealment of any part of a religious house, or the premises appertaining thereto, or of any person residing therein from the visitors, or the production of a false list of the inmates, shall be looked upon as a misdemeanour.

The Bishop of Oxford, in a letter to one of his clergy, accused of Tractarianism, says:—"There is need just now of great forbearance between clergymen and people. After alluding to the secessions to Rome, he says that is no reason why those who go half way to Rome should be suspected of any intention to go there altogether. If the Tractarians are cast out of the Church, as they are likely to be, he prophesies the most direful calamity. 'The Church of England will not long survive their expulsion, and the most come—first the war of all sects, and the end of all religion.'

The church of St. Barnabas was crowded to excess on Sunday, by an anxious multitude, who from an early hour had assembled outside the building, for the purpose of hearing the Rev. Mr. Bennett take a final leave of his parishioners. On the doors being thrown open, every available piece of ground was immediately occupied, and the inconvenience arising from the crush was severely felt by many persons who had forced their way in. The text was John vii. 53—"And every man went unto his own house." He alluded to the present divided condition of the Church, and to the perils with which she was beset, and lamented that the great work in which they had been engaged was now destroyed. He urged perseverance in the truth, and a strict adherence to the teaching of the Church. In the evening the church was again open, and Mr. Bennett preached another sermon to an equally crowded audience, but addressed himself more to the loss the parish would sustain in the alteration of the established services of that church. During the next three or four weeks St. Barnabas will be closed, with a view, it is understood, to the removal of the screen and other portions of the beautiful and richly decorated chancel.

Two protests against the request of the Bishop of London, that the Reverend W. J. E. Bennett should resign the incumbency of St. Paul's Knightsbridge, and the chapel of St. Barnabas, Pimlico, were unanimously adopted at a meeting of the members of the congregation of those churches, held at the schoolroom attached to St. Barnabas Church, on Monday last, and were presented to Mr. Hodson, the Bishop of London's notary, on Tuesday, when Mr. Bennett signed his resignation.

The vestry of the parish of St. George, Hanover-square, has petitioned Parliament against the sham Anti-Papal Aggression Bill, on the ground that it "will prove illusory and ineffectual to check the course of Romish aggrandisement, or ensure the safety of the Protestant Church, Monarchy, and Constitution." They also wish the House to examine the statute-book, with a view to ascertain what laws have been passed by the wisdom of our ancestors "to guard the realm and its regalities from Papal invasions."

sion," and to make inquiry into the conduct of all Romish ecclesiastics, subjects of the Queen, who have openly aided in the execution of the Papal bull—

" And, if the conduct of any of them shall be proved upon such inquiry to be against the said laws and statutes (as your humble petitioners believe it will be found), that your honourable House will consider the propriety of proceeding against any such offenders in the way of impeachment before the high court of Parliament."

A very large meeting of the inhabitants of the united parishes of St. Andrews, Holborn, and St. George the Martyr, was held in the board-room of the workhouse, Gray's-inn-lane, on Monday evening, for the purpose of considering the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill. Mr. Talbot presided. Resolutions were passed, after very decided opposition, asserting the danger which menaces civil and political as well as religious rights in the proceedings of the Pope, and demanding a strong legislative enactment limiting the Catholics to that just equality which was established by the act of 1829.

A correspondence has taken place between Sir Benjamin Hall, M.P. for Marylebone, and the Bishop of London, on the subject of the Puseyite practices in the Church of St. Andrew, Wells-street. Sir Benjamin calls upon the bishop to put an end to those practices, or to resign his charge over the diocese that it may be given to one who shall act more energetically in the matter. The Bishop of London declines to reply to the complaints made by Sir Benjamin Hall; because, as he says, he has publicly called in question his veracity, which Sir Benjamin denies, and, apparently, on good grounds.

There has just been printed a Parliamentary document containing the copy of a letter from the Lord Bishop of Sydney to Sir C. Fitzroy, the Governor, in relation to the rank or precedence of bishops appointed by the Pope within her Majesty's Australian dominions. Sir Robert Inglis obtained the document. On the 22nd of May last, the Bishop of Sydney addressed the Governor, and concluded as follows:—

" The right and full power of her Majesty to bestow rank and precedence upon any of her subjects, and therefore upon Romish ecclesiastics, regarded as individuals, and not as a class or order of men, cannot be doubted or questioned, if this prerogative be exercised by the customary forms of grants for such purposes; but the question I am compelled to raise is, whether directions issued not expressly in the name of her Majesty are in force to invest the Pope with the sovereign prerogative of conferring, even virtually, rank and precedence at his own will upon his nominees, and in virtue only of his nomination, within this realm."

At the end of July, the Governor enclosed the letter to Earl Grey, which was received on the 4th of January. No answer had been returned to the letter or despatch, and both arrived in this country when the agitation against Papal aggression was ripe.

Intimations have reached us from several quarters that a vigorous effort will be made at the next general meeting of the National Society to weed the committee of all names associated with High Church principles.—*Guardian*.

The *Christian Times* has published a goodly and instructive list of the fruits of Oxford teaching for the last years. These fruits being a string of about one hundred fellows, professors, and teachers who have journeyed from Oxford to Rome. To each college is assigned its peculiar merits, and traced its special converts to the Pope. At the tail of these one hundred ecclesiastical leaders follow seventeen hundred clergy, holding emoluments and functions in the Church of England, who have disowned the royal supremacy, and, in fact, the only basis upon which the Protestant Church rests. Such being the fruit, it was time for the crown to examine into the state of the tree. But, lo! it is pale round and parched off. The universities are an *imperium in imperio*, lords of the national creed, guides of national tendencies, education, ritual, and logic. Four eminent lawyers have declared that the commission of inquiry issued by the crown "is not constitutional or legal, or such as the university or its members are bound to obey."—*Daily News*.

A correspondent of the *Church and State Gazette* says that the Reverend A. Chirol (curate to Mr. Bennett) with his wife and family; also his mother, and several other persons; and W. Finlason, Esq., (author of the pamphlet on the *legality* of the Papal hierarchy), with his wife; and also several relations of the latter, have joined the Church of Rome.

A correspondent of the *Morning Herald* says, "During the past week Dr. Pusey, one of the patrons of St. Saviour's church, Leeds, has been on a visit to that town, with the object of preventing the secession of the clergy of St. Saviour's to Rome. In this, however, he has been unsuccessful, and some of the clergy, and at least twenty of the laymen of the church are about immediately to go over to the Papist Church."

A crowded vestry-meeting was held at the parish church of Leighton Buzzard, Beds, on Thursday, for the purpose of levying a church rate to defray the expenses of prosecuting the chapelwardens of the hamlets for not collecting the rates required for the

repairs of the mother church. After a spirited discussion and exposure of the injustice of the proposed rate, it was rejected by an overwhelming majority. The churchwardens demanded a poll, which lasted two days, and terminated in a majority of 245 against the rate.

MISS TALBOT—CONVENT DISCIPLINE.

The case of Miss Augusta Talbot has almost diverted public attention from the Papal Aggression this week. The story of her wrongs, as narrated by the *Times* and other journals, is well calculated to revive the rather worn-out popular feeling against the abuses of the conventional system. Miss Talbot is the daughter of the late Honourable George Henry Talbot, half-brother of the Earl of Shrewsbury, who, as most of our readers are aware, is a Roman Catholic devotee, but, nevertheless, Premier Earl of England and Hereditary Lord High Steward of Ireland, and patron of seven livings in the Church of England:—

" By the will of Charles, late Earl of Shrewsbury, two sums of £30,000 each were given to John Talbot and Augusta Talbot, the two children of the late Honourable George Henry Talbot, half-brother of the present Earl of Shrewsbury, on their attaining the age of twenty-one, or in the case of Miss Talbot upon her marriage. John Talbot was born on the 18th of February, 1830, and died on the 23rd of April, 1843; at which time, by a gift of survivorship in the will above-mentioned, Miss Talbot, who was born on the 6th of June, 1831, became presumptively entitled to the whole £60,000 and accumulations. The Honourable George Henry Talbot, the father, died on the 11th of June, 1839, and his widow remarried on the 9th of September, 1839, the Honourable Craven Fitzhardinge Berkeley, and died on the 25th of April, 1841. In the year 1839 a suit was instituted for the purpose of carrying into effect the will of the testator, Charles, Earl of Shrewsbury, and Miss Talbot and her brother were made wards of court. In August, 1839, two petitions were presented to Lord Chancellor Cottenham respecting the custody of the infants, when his lordship directed that they should continue to reside with their mother, Mrs. Berkeley. Upon the death of that lady in April, 1841, Miss Talbot went to reside with the present Earl and Countess of Shrewsbury, and continued to do so up to the month of September last, with the exception of the period of her education at a convent called 'The Lodge,' at Taunton."

Last summer Miss Talbot was introduced to society, and is said to have produced a great sensation. The *Times*, in alluding to the twelve weeks she was taken out into the world, after spending ten years in a nunnery, says, "Upon the particulars of what happened during that period it does not become us to enter, although they are matter of public notoriety. We will simply fill up the gap in the story by repeating that the young lady most creditably refused to contract a marriage into which her relatives endeavoured to force her. This refusal on her part, and other considerations on which we cannot enter, as they have not been formally before us, appear to have induced Lord and Lady Shrewsbury to leave the young lady to the care of the two priests—Doyle and Hendren." In September, last year, Miss Talbot returned to the convent at Taunton, and the general understanding among her friends was, that she was there as a postulant, that in September, 1851, her year of probation would expire, when she was finally to take the vows of a nun, and that her large fortune would thenceforth cease to be hers, and become the property of the convent. Some of her relatives, alarmed at the prospect of her being thus sacrificed, began to bestir themselves with a view to see if she could not be induced to give up the notion of taking the veil. Her step-father, Mr. C. F. Berkeley, also applied to the Lord Chancellor to exercise his authority, as Miss Talbot was a ward in Chancery. Mr. Berkeley urged that the case required immediate interference, and upon Lord Truro's refusal to hear the case, except in open court, the former presented a petition to the Court, complaining that the friends of Miss Talbot were denied access to her, and that evil influences were at work to induce her to become a nun, in order that her fortune may become instrumental in the propagation of the Roman Catholic religion.

This petition called forth a letter from Dr. Hendren, titular Bishop of Clifton, in which he denied that Miss Talbot was under any undue restraint, and repudiated, on behalf of himself and his fellow Catholics, the insinuation that they had any sinister design upon the young lady's £80,000, although he admitted that a portion of it would probably be devoted to pious uses. Previous to Miss Talbot's return to "The Lodge," last autumn, he had been applied to, as the ecclesiastical superior of the convent, and as she could not be received except as a postulant—that is, as one intended to become a nun, in due time, if properly qualified—she herself wrote "a most earnestly-supplicating letter" to be admitted as such, and, "accordingly, she was admitted about the beginning of September."

The petition of Mr. Craven Berkeley was presented on Saturday, and, at the same time, one from Mr. Doyle, a Roman Catholic priest, the testamentary guardian of Miss Talbot, in which he prayed the court for a scheme of expenditure which may permit her introduction to London life during the coming

fashionable season. Mr. Rolt appeared for Mr. Doyle, and Mr. Page Wood for Mr. Berkeley. The following report of the proceedings tends to throw some light upon the affair:—

" The Lord Chancellor (Truro) said that in the autumn of last year, when on a visit to the Earl of Shrewsbury, he had a conversation with Miss Talbot, which proved her to be a very intelligent person. Subsequently he received the information from Mr. Grantley Berkeley that she had gone to a convent. A statement had recently appeared that she had done so with his (the Lord Chancellor's) consent. Now, there was no foundation whatever for that assertion, for he was not even aware of such a step having been taken until informed of the fact. As the matter had now been brought before him, and the parties were in court, the only object that anyone had in view ought to be the interest and comfort of the young lady. He did not think it right to allow the young lady to remain in the convent, and he should therefore order that such an arrangement should be made as would provide for her future safe residence and comfort during the remainder of her minority, for which purpose he should direct a reference to the master to inquire and report what would be requisite for that purpose, and draw out a scheme in accordance. That order might be made at once."

" Mr. P. Wood was dissatisfied with this course. He wanted the statement in some affidavits which had been prepared to be brought out, and an order for Mr. Berkeley to have private access to Miss Talbot. Mr. Rolt hoped the young lady would be first consulted; she should be in attendance upon his lordship whenever he pleased. Mr. Wood raised the inquiry whether she was really a postulant. The Lord Chancellor replied that her petition distinctly denied that she was a postulant; from her letter to him, she appeared desirous to come out into society, but she showed a great aversion to private interviews with her step-father. The order of the court had not been fulfilled by the Earl and Countess of Shrewsbury in placing their niece in a convent—that was never intended. He (the Lord Chancellor) had also had some conversation with her as to a marriage, which seemed an undesirable one, and was broken off. She should not be removed from the convent without knowing where she was going, nor should she be involved in a public contest for the gratification of other parties. Mr. Page Wood said, that if the gentleman who styled himself the Bishop of Clifton had abstained from publishing letters in the *Times*, asserting, amongst other things, that Miss Talbot had been admitted as a postulant, he would have adopted a better and a wiser course than that which he had taken. He could scarcely believe that he was a Christian bishop of any denomination. The Lord Chancellor said that there certainly was a great discrepancy between the statements in the petition and that letter. Mr. Page Wood was glad to find, from his lordship's observations, that Mr. Berkeley's had been a beneficial interference, his only object having been to prevent the young lady from being sent to a convent ignorant of all its consequences."

After some discussion between the counsel, it was arranged that the second petition should stand over until Thursday.

In consequence of what transpired in the Court of Chancery, on Saturday, a short discussion took place in the House of Commons, on Monday evening, regarding Miss Talbot. The subject was introduced by Mr. Reynolds, who appealed to the report of the proceedings in the Court of Chancery to prove that he had been correct in stating that she was not a postulant. That statement had been contradicted, not in very courteous terms, by Sir Robert Inglis and Sir Benjamin Hall, they would now see that he had been correct. He was bound to say, however, that Mr. Craven Berkeley was warranted in what he stated, because he had been assured by the superior of the convent that Miss Talbot was a postulant, and, therefore, he only stated what he believed to be true. Sir Benjamin Hall was glad to find that the affair had been so amicably disposed of. It was perfectly evident that although one party said one thing and the other quite the reverse, they were both equally in the right. For his own part he had given credit to the bishop, who said Miss Talbot was a postulant, and he was now sorry at having done so.

Mr. Fagan said the truth was that Miss Talbot,

though not an inmate of the lodge, as a postulant strictly speaking, was so in one sense:—

" There were but two modes in which a lady could be received into a convent. One of these modes was to become a boarder or school girl, and the other was to become a postulant. Miss Talbot having been previously educated at the Lodge, could not be received as a boarder. She could only therefore, enter as a postulant; and as her uncle was about to leave the country, and she had no other relative (for a stepfather was no relation) she did ask to be received in the only way she could be received, as a postulant. Seeing the position which Miss Talbot held in society, and the enormous fortune she possessed, although the authorities were anxious to receive her, they hesitated to do so. Miss Talbot was at length admitted without going through all the usual forms required of a postulant; and the bishop, to whom allusion was made by the honourable baronet the member for Marylebone, with the information that was laid before him, was perfectly justified in stating that she was received as a postulant; and Miss Talbot was equally justified, seeing that the principal ceremony was passed over, in writing to the Lord Chancellor, and saying that she was not a postulant. In point of fact, she went to the convent for the purpose of making it a temporary residence; and the fact, as it now stood, was, that Dr.

Doyle, her guardian, was endeavouring to find a suitable residence elsewhere for the lady. (*Hear, hear.*)"

The case came on for hearing again before the Lord Chancellor, on Thursday, but Mr. Rolt, who appeared for Mr. Doyle, said they would not be prepared to discuss the affidavits which had been filed on the other side till Saturday. Mr. Page Wood thought the case should be referred to the Master, who would decide whether Mr. Doyle or Mr. Berkeley would have been the proper guardians for her. Mr. Rolt said the feelings of the young lady had been already tortured, and if the matter was referred to the Master, they would be tortured still more.

The Lord Chancellor said he had caused inquiries to be made with respect to what should at present be done for the comfort and happiness of the young lady. He had spoken to a lady of unimpeachable character, and had consented to do so. He had in consequence ordered the young lady to be brought up on Monday. He did not think it necessary to mention the lady's name, for she would not like publicity to be given to it, but he would hand the name to counsel. He thought that until some arrangement was come to it would be better that the young lady should be with a lady entirely disinterested in the case. She would therefore come up on Monday, and be received by the lady whose name he had handed down. He thought the better course would be that the matter should be referred to the Master. He would take care that that Court was not made an arena which was to give publicity which did not belong to it. All he had to look to was as to the residence of the young lady and her welfare and comfort.

LANDLORDS, LABOURERS, AND POOR-RATES.

The Irish landlords do not seem to consider that the work of depopulation has gone far enough yet, if we may judge from the hordes of wretched immigrants whom they are driving off the land. In addition to the thousands of the less indigent who go to America, immense numbers still continue to flock over to the large towns of England and Scotland, to compete in the labour market, and to swell the poor-rates. Last Sunday no fewer than 1000 men, women, and children are said to have arrived in London from Ireland, most of them in a very wretched condition. They had been shipped to this country at a trifling sum per head, and many of them commenced begging soon after their arrival.

In the rural districts our own labourers find great difficulty in obtaining employment, and as the poor-law is administered much more harshly in the country, we may expect a large influx of unemployed agricultural labourers into London from the neighbouring countries during the next few months. At the Suffolk Quarter Sessions, yesterday week, in referring to the case of the persons charged with riot in Barham union workhouse, the chairman observed that the house was exceedingly full, and a large portion of them, about 120, were able-bodied men. He regretted to see so large a number of men in such a position; men who were able and willing to maintain themselves and their families, but who, from circumstances, had been obliged to go into the house. In Essex the farmers, following the advice lately given by Mr. Elliman, have issued the following proclamation:

"TO OUR WORTHY LABOURERS.

"We, the neighbouring farmers, deeply deplore our inability to continue the present rate of wages to our worthy labourers—the fact is, that we cannot afford it. Free trade has brought us into close competition with foreigners, who pay so little money for labour, that dark brown rye bread, skim milk, cheese, and a few onions, is all the men get. With these foreign serfs, who are now bought and sold with the land like cattle, are we now contending in our own markets. Much as we deplore it, we are obliged manfully to tell you that if we are to give you constant employment we cannot pay the present wages. Essex must come to what many other counties have already come, six and seven shillings a-week. We will give as much as we can, but it must be in proportion to the price of corn: the money lost by farmers this year is dreadful. Down with the malt tax. God save the Queen!"

Now, Essex is a very fertile county. In addition to what is consumed at home it sends annually about 300,000 quarters of wheat, and 150,000 quarters of malt to London, besides cattle, sheep, wool, butter, and all other kinds of farm produce. Of course Essex will receive a pretty large sum of money in return for all these articles, and one might fancy that the farmers could afford to give their labourers good wages. But, unfortunately, the farms are very large, and the farmers need all the money they can get to pay their enormous rents. In 1767, Mr. Arthur Young found some of the farms in Essex as high as £1000, £1500, and even £2000 a-year. If the landlords would reduce their rents 25 per cent. it would afford much more relief to the farmers than any reduction of wages will ever give.

It is rather remarkable to find, at the very time when the Essex farmers declare their inability to pay their labourers for cultivating the fertile soil of that county, and while the Suffolk farmers are maintaining their able-bodied poor in forced idleness, the Leeds guardians should be taking steps for the reclamation of waste land by pauper labour. In a report recently presented to the guardians of that town, by

a committee formerly appointed for the purpose, "On the Reproductive Employment of Able-bodied Pauper Labour," the advantages derived from it are thus pointed out:—

"From all the information that your committee have been able to gather, they are decidedly of opinion that the reclamation of waste or uncultivated land has been found of the highest advantage, thereby adding to the previous productive powers of the country, and creating a larger amount of rateable property; and that if the Leeds guardians could purchase or lease for a long term, a quantity of moor or waste land at a suitable distance from the town, the labour of the able-bodied paupers might be beneficially employed in inclosing, trenching, draining, and otherwise in making it fit for cultivation by spade labour, when it might be either sold or let as circumstances should dictate and the law permit."

THE ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING THE REPEAL OF THE TAXES ON KNOWLEDGE.

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN.—For many years past the necessity of popular education, and the difficulty of agreeing on any system that should be satisfactory to the country, have formed the theme of all reformers, philanthropists, and statesmen. But, though it is difficult to organize a national mode of doing any good work, it is comparatively easy to remove the hindrances which exist in the shape of restrictive laws. Years must elapse before all our population can receive a good and systematic instruction; but a few months may suffice to abolish the laws which forbid the cheap newspaper to circulate among the poor, which hinder the communication of mutual wants, and which force the best authors out of the field of cheap and popular literature.

The taxes on knowledge consist of—

	£	s.	d.
The duty on foreign books, which, in the year 1849, produced	7,751	0	0
The duty on paper	867,190	11	7½
The duty on advertisements	158,164	16	0
The penny stamp on newspapers £350,289 9s. 4d.			
Deduct 6,169 2 3 for			
expense of stamping and way 194,120 7 1 for			
that of the Post-office 150,000 0 0			
	<u>£1,183,036</u>	<u>7 7½</u>	
Deduct Government grant for education, which in 1850 was—			
For Great Britain £125,000			
For Ireland 125,000			
	<u>£250,000</u>	<u>0 0</u>	
	<u>£933,036</u>	<u>7 7½</u>	

The duty on foreign books in foreign languages is so manifest an absurdity, and produces such a trumpery amount to the revenue, that we may dismiss it without further comment.

The duty on advertisements not only enhances the price of every book, but is a revenue destroyer, not a revenue producer; a much greater amount than £158,164 must be lost to the revenue by the injury caused to trade from a want of such means of communication. Thousands misemploy their time from mere ignorance of the wants of others; the repeal of the advertisement duty would tend to correct this evil. There is some reason for believing that the duty is retained in order to cripple the newspaper press; advertisements are permitted in railways and omnibus, and no attempt has been made to alter the law in their behalf; nay, the law, as it stands, requires the duty to be paid on advertisements in every literary work, but, by the laxity of the Board of Inland Revenue, the advertisements in books are allowed to go free; indeed, it would almost appear that there is no crime looked upon with such an evil eye by the Government as that of retailing news, for every possible hindrance is thrown in its way.

Some idea of the effect of the paper duty may be arrived at by considering the fact that Charles Knight paid £16,500 to the excise on the *Penny Cyclopaedia*, the cost of which for literature and engravings, exclusive of paper and printing, was £42,000. In his *Struggles of a Book against Excessive Taxation*, Mr. Knight says:—

"Upon a tolerably accurate calculation I have, from my own unaided resources, expended, during the last twenty years, £80,000 upon copyright and editorial labour. During the same period I have paid £50,000 paper duty."

And again:—

"A revolution has been effected, in which sound literature might have higher encouragement in the many than in the few, if the Government did not stand in the way."

The duty paid on the paper, 1d. per pound, would be enough in a publication of large circulation to remunerate the very highest talent.

If the paper duty tends to substitute mischievous works of fiction instead of wholesome instruction, the penny stamp is still more potent, for it absolutely prohibits a cheap record of facts, and throws insurmountable obstacles in the way of a communication of ideas between different classes of the community. Let any one who reads these pages ask himself what he knows of the opinions and feelings of the agricultural labouring population? We guess at them occasionally by the light of burning haystacks, or by the assistance of pauper riots. We may particularly instance the Rebecca insurrection in Wales, which would never have taken place if the aggrieved parties had had any easier and cheaper method of making known to Government a grievance which was not more remarkable for its oppressiveness than for the ease with which it could be remedied. We have no admiration for the literary qualities of the rural American press, but we believe that it saves the Government some millions annually in the shape of soldiers and police, prevents heartburnings and misunderstandings, which would otherwise involve rival districts in deadly feud, and keeps alive the power of reading among the working classes, so

as to lead in time to that literary cultivation of which we make so much boast, but which in this country is confined to a few, and, by being thus made a class privilege, inflicts an additional pang upon those whose poverty excludes them from it.

Above all other knowledge we demand the free circulation of political knowledge. Millions of our countrymen have nothing to do with the laws but to obey them, they have no means of learning the law but through the cheap newspaper, and yet so to teach them is a crime. It is a punishable offence to circulate without a stamp the proceedings in Parliament or in the law courts. For many years discontent has raged among the working classes at their exclusion from political rights; they are told they are too ignorant to be trusted with political power; and yet the Government not only refuses to educate them, but obstructs them in educating themselves.

On the other side, the only objection raised by the Government, or expressed in the House of Commons, is the want of revenue.

That the paper duty is a source of revenue cannot be denied, but in the face of the present large surplus no argument can be deduced from this fact.

The abolition of the advertisement duty would benefit the excise by increasing consumption; and as to the penny stamp, its net revenue is only about £150,000, which might be made up by admitting not only newspapers but all printed papers to a cheap rate of postage.

But there is another reason not only for demanding but for expecting the repeal of the penny stamp. The Board of Inland Revenue, whose motto appears to be "anything for a quiet life," have gradually allowed a practice to grow up of breaking the law. The Newspaper Act declares that every copy of a newspaper shall be stamped; the Post-office Act confers the boon of free postage on stamped newspapers, but not on mere publications: it follows that every publication registered as a newspaper ought to stamp every copy. But the practice has grown up of allowing publications to register as newspapers, and to stamp only their country edition.

The great object of this association is to make this practice general and legal, and the most effective way of doing this is to demand that the existing law be enforced.

About ten months ago the Board informed John Cassell, the proprietor of the *Freeholder*, that his paper was a newspaper, both in virtue of its registration and its contents, and that he must for the future stamp every copy. Mr. Cassell has never complied with the demand, and no proceedings have been taken against him. About nine months ago a similar notice was sent to the proprietors of Charles Dickens's *Household Narrative*, and legal proceedings are pending against that paper. The length of time to which these have been protracted without coming to trial leads to the inference that Government are not very sincere in their prosecution, and that they have neither the grace to repeal the law nor the courage to enforce it.

An important exception must be made to this remark; the law is enforced very strictly in the country, where a letter from the Board meets with that respectful obedience which is not one of the characteristics of London publishers. Mr. Hugh Jones, of Liangollen, was in the habit of publishing fortnightly a penny paper, called *Y Isgyr*, of which he used to sell 2300 copies. The Board obliged him to stamp it. He then brought it out monthly, at 3d., and the sale fell to 600, which caused its discontinuance. Mr. Bucknall, of Stroud, published a monthly paper, of which he sold 17,000. He was obliged to stamp it, its sale was ruined, and the paper dropped. The most flagrant case which has come to our knowledge is that of the *Wakefield Examiner*, which was threatened with a fine of £40,000 (afterwards commuted to £10) for publishing slips—a practice quite common in London, and not interfered with by the Board, even when copies are forwarded by informers, with a view to prosecution.

We confidently appeal to the existing press for their support, not only on public grounds, but because, from having the advantage both of capital and of possession of the market, they would obtain the largest share of the newspaper trade which would spring up on the abolition of the stamp. This has been already exemplified in the case of the *Times*, which gained an increased ascendancy when the stamp was reduced in 1846. No objection could be made to a reasonable newspaper copyright to protect the high-priced journals from wholesale piracy, but, while piracy deserves suppression, free trade in knowledge is as essential as free trade in corn; and nothing can be more absurd and unjust than to prevent the public from having as many journals as they want, at as many different prices as may suit their convenience. Nor do we fear the propagation of violence or of immorality. The great mass of English readers are lovers of peace and quietness, and, as no man tolerates any vice but his own, a paper intended for general circulation can support no immorality that is not already universal. And, although sectional papers might indulge in violent language, hard words are better than rough deeds. The aggrieved, who are able to pour out their complaints through the press, feel their wrongs, real or imaginary, already half redressed; and the true statesman will never so well know how to govern, as when the people themselves tell him what they feel and desire.

Betir yourselves, then, to obtain the repeal of the stamp on knowledge; let every borough, parish, paper-mill, printing-office, mechanics' institution, or political association, petition; and, above all, importune the Board of Inland Revenue with letters of complaint till they grant to the benighted districts of the country those privileges which their laziness or their timidity allows to the inhabitants of London. At the next general election, demand of every candidate that he support the repeal of the taxes on knowledge. Let no legislator, no Minister of the Crown, no member of the Board of Inland Revenue rest till the press is exempted from taxation.

and liberated from all control except that of a court of law. Signed by order of the Committee, and on their behalf,
T. MILNER GIBSON, President, 49, Wilton-crescent.
FRANCIS PLACE, Treasurer, 21, Brompton-square.
J. ALFRED NOVELLO, Sub-Treasurer, 69, Dean-street, Soho.
RICHARD MOORE, Chairman, 25, Hart-street, Bloomsbury.
C. DOBSON COLLET, Secretary, 15, Essex-street, Strand.

LIFE ASSURANCE.

At the fourth annual meeting of the Professional Life Assurance Company, held on Wednesday, a very satisfactory report was read, showing that the business transacted during the past year had nearly equalled the amount of all the preceding years together. The total income of the company at the present time, derived from premiums, after deducting assurances lapsed by death, amounts to upwards of £11,450, the total number of policies issued is 1155, and the total sum assured, £345,513. Local boards of management have been formed at Manchester and Birmingham, and in some of the colonies. A dividend at the rate of five per cent. for the past year on the paid up capital was agreed to, and an increase of salary was awarded to the directors of the company.

Mr. Baylis, the actuary of the association, made some interesting statements on the prospects of the company, and its peculiar claims to the support of professional men. Let those who exercised their brains for an inadequate remuneration, who sat up from night till morn, worried with all the distress of literary labour, think of the advantages provided for their wives and families, and also for themselves under any of the adverse contingencies of life; and where would they find an institution more suited to their necessities than the Professional Life Assurance Company. He then adverted to the impolicy of the old companies, in hoarding up vast accumulations of money, from which the assured could derive no benefit:

"One of the old assurance offices had an accumulated capital of £9,000,000 of money, which had been laid up for ten years, but not a halfpenny of this could be employed for the benefit of the members during their lifetime. Now supposing this company had £9,000,000 of money, and they were sure to have it some day—(cheers) the youngest man present might live to see the time, because, according to the principles of the society, they must of necessity make that sum. (Hear, hear.) What a considerable amount in the shape of interest would they have to divide among the members? (Hear.) Supposing, however, at a more moderate calculation, they obtained only £900,000, that, at three per cent., would produce £27,000 a-year—a sum sufficient to keep nearly every one connected with the institution from want. (Hear.) There were a great many parties connected with the old office to which he had alluded, who, by their subscriptions, had contributed to its greatness and renown, but who, though in circumstances of poverty and distress, could not in their lifetime look forward for assistance to that enormous accumulation of nine millions of money. (Hear.) They would therefore see that it was not always the best office which had the largest amount of funds at its disposal."

A vote of thanks to Mr. Baylis having been proposed, a shareholder asked if it were true that Mr. Baylis had aided in the formation of a similar company to the Professional Life Assurance Company, and was now attached to it as consulting actuary? Such a connection, he thought, would be injurious to their interests. Mr. Baylis said it was perfectly true that he had been connected with the establishment of the Trafalgar Life Assurance Society, and that he had been appointed consulting actuary to it; but it was not, therefore, to be inferred that he would neglect his duties to the Professional. Some actuaries were connected with twenty different companies. So great a belief had he in the inestimable advantages of life assurance, that he hoped the Trafalgar would not be the last modern office with which his name would be associated. After a short conversation, in which the chairman and other gentlemen expressed their opinion that, so far from the extension of their principles, through the means of the Trafalgar office, being injurious to this company, it was advantageous; and that it would not be fair to limit Mr. Baylis in the exercise of his profession more than other actuaries were limited. A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Mr. Baylis.

OMNIBUS IMPROVEMENTS.

We are glad to see that the magistrates have made up their minds to put down the cross-seat nuisance of omnibuses. The effect of it is, in most instances, to make five persons exceedingly uncomfortable. Mrs. Winder, of Edmonton, was summoned before the bench at Guildhall, on Saturday, on a charge of using an omnibus to carry eleven persons, although constructed to carry ten only, allowing each person the room directed by Act of Parliament. The complaint was made by Alderman Wilson who had experienced great inconvenience from the crowded state of the vehicle. The objection was founded upon there being a cross seat for three persons, which prevented any of them from having room for their legs.

"Alderman Finniss said it was positively indecent to place a respectable female in such a seat where her knees must always rest on or under those of the person who might happen to be by her side.

"The coachbuilder alleged that it was all owing to the cheap fares, and if the public would not pay sufficient they must expect to be crowded.

"Alderman Wilson stated it was a well-known fact that the omnibus proprietors had greatly increased their earnings since the commencement of low fares, and some of them had amassed large fortunes. He considered it a disgrace to this country that the present system of inconvenience was allowed to go on with regard to the public carriages. We were far behind the French in this respect, for in Paris a person could stand upright and pass down the omnibus without touching any one. He would take care, however, that all the great companies should be summoned and compelled to construct their omnibuses according to the Act of Parliament.

"The coachbuilder said that he had constructed this and a number of other vehicles of the same sort to carry eleven passengers, but they should all be altered in accordance with the magistrate's decision, and the top seat for the eleventh passenger abolished."

As the defendant was a widow and pleaded guilty the magistrate fined her only 1s. and costs.

THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN REFUGEES IN LIVERPOOL.

A committee has been organized in Liverpool to collect subscriptions for the immediate support of the refugees; the ultimate object, however, being, as soon as proper arrangements can be made, to draft them off in lots of ten or twenty to the various towns throughout England and Scotland, where suitable employment can be gained for them. Bradford has consented to take four or five, and arrangements for public meetings are being made in various other towns. On Wednesday night, a meeting of the gentlemen engaged in organizing an amateur dramatic performance for their benefit, was held at the Brunswick Hotel, Liverpool. There was a very large and respectable attendance. Mr. Charles Leach was called to the chair; and, in a few preliminary observations, he called upon the secretary to read the report, of which the following is a brief abstract. Since their last public meeting the committee had seen Mr. Copeland, with whom they had concluded an arrangement for taking the theatre for the proposed performance. They had received many offers of assistance from numerous professional and amateur ladies and gentlemen; and, after some consideration, they had resolved that the performance should take place at the Theatre Royal, on the 2nd of April. The entertainments will commence with a prologue, written expressly for the occasion by a resident gentleman, to be spoken by Mr. Barry Sullivan. This will be followed by Colman's comedy of *John Bull*, in which the male characters will be entirely played by amateurs. The whole of the refugees will afterwards give some musical performances. To this will succeed the musical play of *The Waterman*, in which several distinguished amateurs will appear. Already upwards of £60 has been received for tickets, and there is every prospect of the house being filled to overflowing. Amongst the refugees there is a gentleman who was connected with the Polish stage, and is also a capital opera dancer. He will assist in the performance.

An appeal is being made to the various associations of operatives, and there is little doubt but that it will be responded to in that charitable spirit of liberality for which the working classes of England stand so distinguished. We hereby give the specification of those refugees in Liverpool who are already masters of the following trades:—

Joiners, 5; sugar-refiners, 5; tailors, 11; brewers, 2; locksmiths, 3; chemists, 2; gardener, 1; composers, 3; lithographers, 3; saloon painter, 1; cutter, 1; bricklayer, 1; iron-manufacturers, 5; soap-maker, 1; bookbinder, 1; confectioners, 4; stonemason, 1; butchers, 2; dyer, 1; calico-printer, 1; architectural draughtsman, 1; musicians forming a band, 5; pianists, 2; opera dancer, 1; sculptor, 1; M.D., 1. Upon the suggestion of the refugees themselves, their committee has published in the Liverpool papers the following caution:—

"The public will do well to be on their guard against a set of fellows who are soliciting assistance by representing themselves as refugees. The refugees decline to receive any contributions of any kind, except through their committee."

The following declaration has been sent to us by M. Szeredy, one of the ten Hungarians who was mentioned by M. Dioiss as willing to proceed to America; though he never dreamt of so doing, as his declaration will show. M. Szeredy is preparing for publication a history of the relations between the Austrian Government and Hungary:—

"Since the refugees, forming the persecuted remnants of the participants in the Hungarian cause, have arrived at Liverpool, many voices have been raised against them in the English press, by parties from whom they (the exiles) sought neither advice nor help. The exiles did not come here to be a burden to any one; they came here, because they hoped to easier find—they could in Turkey—a field for earning a livelihood by their own exertions. The Emigration Company funded it had found a prize in them; hence, its most active members did not neglect to allure them by the

most brilliant promises, thus seeking to sever them far away from their fatherland. They did all they could to persuade them that there was no prospect for their finding employment in this country; and it was especially M. Dioiss (my countryman) who most busied himself in this respect; he pictured to us the condition of England in the most gloomy colours, saying that every year enormous numbers of people die of starvation, and that thousands of families live upon nothing but the *sale of gathered horse-dung*. 'I, myself,' said he, 'obtained my present employment with the greatest difficulty, and only after having made a written declaration that I repented of ever having participated in the cause of Hungary, and that I did so only upon Kossuth's inducement.' Wishing you to escape the horrors of starvation, I cannot, as an honest man, give you better advice than to emigrate to America.' Upon my observing that 'I thought it advisable, for the interests of our country, to keep every one of our countrymen in Europe, and not thus to send them away so far,' he replied: 'A few men more or less can make no difference to our country.' Possibly it may be so in the eyes of men who have either renounced the hope of a better future for their fatherland, and therefore have no love for it, or who have nothing to lose in Hungary; but it would be far better even for such men to cultivate the luxuriant plains of Hungary than the American steppes; and thus by seeking a new fatherland be lost to the old one.

"As to gaining a livelihood in America, I, myself, am competent to judge of its possibility. Those, only, who either are tradesmen, or are provided with sufficient pecuniary means can live there; but what have those to expect who possess neither of those two advantages, and who are only educated for literary pursuits.

"It is true, as M. Pulzsky states in No. 52 of the *Leader*, that Kossuth, in the first instance, proposed to our brethren to emigrate to America, but after mature consideration he altered his mind, and began to endeavour to establish for them a more proximate colony in Asia. In his letter addressed, in December last, to the Hungarian exiles, when they, with the Poles, were removed by the Turkish authorities from Shumla to Constantinople, he actually *dissuaded them from emigrating to the United States*, observing that all those who had resolved to do so were for *ever lost* to their native country, and repeatedly advised them either to remain in Turkey or in any of the European countries. The same patriotic reasons, uninfluenced by Kossuth, led me to look upon emigration as unadvisable. The Poles are precisely of the same opinion.

"It was the fate of the Polish-Hungarian exile, however, to find upon their landing in Liverpool some sympathizing souls, who nobly took it upon themselves to find out means for their further sustenance.

"Mr. Pulzsky is displeased at the said exiles calling themselves 'Polish Hungarian Refugees,' but I, for my part, desire that that denomination should be preserved as long as there is one Hungarian amongst them. Everyone's feeling of national honour rejects foreign denomination; but the Poles are not in need of appearing under the name of 'Hungarians,' for it is well known that their own Polish name never redounds but to their honour. Should they nevertheless choose to designate themselves 'Hungarian refugees' they would be by no means in the wrong, for they took an active part in the Hungarian struggle, and many of their brethren bled and perished for our Hungarian fatherland. I admit that under the Hungarian name, and at the expense of its honour, many base deeds are perpetrated by individuals belonging to various nationalities, but such deeds are practised only by those men who never participated in the defence of the Hungarian cause; such can never be the case with those exiles now on the tapis.

"As to the principles of nationality, I do not bind myself to any individuality, for I respect the men of whatever nation they be only as long as they preserve the principles for which we have shed our blood.

"For the rest my humble opinion is that every one of the abovementioned exiles must know what his duty relative to his own country—though he sojourns in a foreign one—is, viz., that he ought to have its name indelibly engraved in his memory, and to religiously put aside everything that could contaminate its sacredness.

"Liverpool, March 24, 1851." "J. SZEREDY.

The following letter, in reference to certain statements made by M. Pulzsky has been received from Captain M. Domagalski:—

"M. FRANCIS PULSKY.

"10, Melton-street, Euston-square.

"SIR.—Will you kindly permit me to answer, in as few words as possible, M. Pulzsky's letter inserted in your last week's number.

"That M. Pulzsky, in his character of chargé d'affaires of Kossuth, should positively know that Mr. Dioiss was really Kossuth's secretary, cannot be doubted; it is, however, not a matter of course that everybody should know with the same certainty that he was so. Whether M. Pulzsky, to whom I was introduced by a letter given to him by his friend M. Drierkowski, is justified in dubiously calling me 'a certain Captain Domagalski,' I leave your readers to decide.

"Had M. Dioiss limited his persuasions to the ten Hungarians who were amongst the 262 exiles arrived at Liverpool on the 4th instant, I should not have troubled you even with my first letter, which appeared in your 51st number; for that would have been but minding his own business, and quite in accordance with Kossuth's wish concerning both his own countrymen, expressed in his letter of August 23rd, 1850, of which M. Pulzsky, for mere insinuation's sake, published an extract in the *Daily News*, precisely upon the arrival of the 262 refugees, though only ten of them were Hungarians, whilst 247 were Poles, whom M. Pulzsky, in the heading to the just-mentioned extract, nevertheless chose to designate as 'Hungarian Refugees.' But M. Dioiss, in

his letter addressed to Lord Dudley Stuart, inserted in the *Times*, not only said what I mentioned in my previous letter, but, seeing that his inducements could not bend the determinations of the Poles, also requested him (Lord Dudley Stuart) to send M. Szulezewski, the secretary of the Literary Association, to Liverpool, in order to accomplish the mission he had himself been unsuccessful in, viz., that of inducing the Poles to go to America. Now, Sir, I ask you whether, after such an officious proceeding, it was becoming M. Pulasky to say, "As to the Poles we do not meddle with their views?"

"With regard to the wish with which M. Pulasky concludes his letter, viz., that the Poles would not 'assume the name of Hungarians,' I beg leave to tell him, that if the Poles assisted the Hungarians and shed their blood for the Hungarian cause, it was merely to practically show that they well understood what solidarity amongst oppressed nations meant (hence their reluctance to leave Europe with that readiness others manifest), and not with a view of relinquishing their nationality to adopt that of the Hungarians; for their own is at least as glorious and as dear to them as is that of Hungarians to the people of Hungary; and I can solemnly assure M. Pulasky, that there is not one true and honest Pole who would exchange his nationality for any other. If there are some who do so, they are neither true nor honest Poles no more than individuals of other nations assuming to be Poles are true and honest men. There are, indeed, many who under that name 'exploit' the sympathy of the English people; so that the Poles have repeatedly had to caution the public through the press against such impostors.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
"Captain M. DOMAGALSKI,
"A Pole, and not a Hungarian."

THE ESSEX MURDERERS.

The execution of Thomas Drury for the murder of Jael Denny, and Sarah Chesham for poisoning her husband, took place at Chelmsford on Tuesday, in front of Springfield Gaol. An immense crowd assembled to witness the harrowing spectacle. During the previous night the tramp of feet was heard throughout the town of persons anxious to be amongst the first to get a good place, many of them fatigued and careworn, from the distance they had travelled, in some cases upwards of thirty miles. The crowd consisted chiefly of labourers, farm-servants, and females, all dressed and decorated as if Chelmsford were for the day to be converted into a scene of gay festivity.

Notwithstanding the prevaricating statements Drury had made on the subject of the murder immediately after his conviction, and the imputations he cast upon the unfortunate deceased, on Monday night—at the eleventh hour—he penned a document, and subscribed it with his name, in which, after admitting the enormity of his crime, and his hope that his victim was at rest in heaven, he described the murder as a malicious and barbarous act, and prayed God that the forfeiture of his life might deter others from committing so wicked and horrible an atrocity. The substance of the statement was that he and Jael Denny met by accident, as far as he was concerned, at half-past five o'clock on the evening of the murder, but he thought that she had put herself in his way purposely; that he said he could not talk to her then, but if she met him in an hour's time he would have some chat with her. They met as appointed, but in the meantime he had gone to a cellar in his father's house and taken from it part of a rope left in their garden a fortnight before by a person who had come there to buy some damsons. The remainder, except what was used to strangle the girl, was afterwards found in the stable. On one occasion he had carried the rope with which he committed the murder for several days in his bosom, on another he carried it in his coat pocket, and his last statement was, that immediately before the act he took it from the cellar. These statements certainly appeared inconsistent at first glance, yet it is quite possible that they may all be true. On meeting her for the second time, he said that he and Jael Denny talked and walked about, after which, at her suggestion, they sat down on the bank. She had gone to urge him to marry her. He passed the rope gently round her as they were sitting, and had got the end into the loop before she perceived it. She jumped up at once and put up her hands to save her throat (which is proved by the marks on her fingers), but he pulled hard and she fell without a struggle. He then left her lying in the field and went to Brentwood.

After his conviction he had several interviews with his friends, but he showed little emotion in their presence. When his father visited him, the Governor, Mr. Neale, said "they looked astounded at each other." His last request was that the money found on his person (£8 11s. 4d.) should be given to the mother of Jael Denny "as part restitution for the grievous injury he might have done her."

Sarah Chesham denied her guilt to the last. The statement that she confessed having poisoned her children having been utterly untrue. At the last moment, on leaving her cell, her protestations were as firm as they had ever been. "I am innocent," she said, "though my neck is put in the halter for it." After her conviction she steadfastly refused to move out of her cell either for the purposes of exercise or religious devotion at the chapel. According to the chaplain neither Drury nor Chesham displayed any

signs of genuine penitence. Drury, he said, seemed little able to comprehend the enormity of his crime, and its accompanying circumstance of cruelty and treachery.

Both prisoners were very much unnerved on the morning of their execution. Drury quivered in every limb and joint of his body, and had to be supported as he ascended the scaffold. Sarah Chesham refused to move from her cell till told that she would be carried if she refused to walk. She was, however, so much overcome as to require the assistance of two persons. She was with difficulty placed under the fatal beam. In Drury all sign of animation was extinct in four or five minutes, but Chesham struggled for six or seven minutes.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Queen and Prince, with the whole of the royal children, left Osborne-house on Tuesday afternoon, at a quarter before two o'clock, on their return to Buckingham-palace. They crossed from Cowes to Gosport in the Fairy royal steam-yacht, and were conveyed to town by special train. On arriving at Nine Elms Station five carriages were in waiting for the royal party, and they proceeded to the palace escorted by a detachment of lancers. On Wednesday afternoon the Queen held a levee at St. James's Palace, which was numerously attended.

Lord Stanley will be entertained at dinner at Merchant Tailors' Hall on the 2nd of April. Upwards of eighty peers, and more than 200 Members of the House of Commons, have signed the requisition to his lordship.

In the Roll's Court, on Tuesday, Mr. Turner said in consequence of Lord Langdale's intended resignation he was desired publicly to express to his lordship how much the profession were indebted to him for his exertions to simplify the process and practice of the court, and to lessen expenses. Lord Langdale said he was sensible of short comings. "At a cooler moment a more rigid scrutiny would be made of his judicial character:—

"The reports would show what he had done, and what he had not done, and at the same time would show how greatly he had been assisted by the learning, the industry, and the integrity of the bar. Little did people who only looked upon the surface know how very little could be done by a judge without the honest co-operation of those most useful assistants, a learned and honourable bar. He had to express his gratitude for the greatest assistance from a bar of that character, and he retired with the strongest feeling of gratitude and respect."

It was understood that Sir John Romilly would be sworn into office as Lord Langdale's successor yesterday (Friday) morning.

The Honourable Frederick George Ellis, son of Lord Howard de Walden, is appointed an unpaid attaché to her Majesty's mission at Brussels.

Captain Warner has offered his services to terminate the Kaffir war cheaply and quickly—it is presumed by the long range. The offer has been politely declined by the authorities.—*Daily News*.

The will of the late Sir John Pirie has been proved at Doctors'-commons, and the property sworn under £30,000.

The entire copyright of the novels, poetry, prose writings of Sir Walter Scott, as well as his life by Lockhart, with the steel plates, woodcuts, and stereotype plates belonging thereto, were offered for sale at the London Coffee-house, Ludgate-hill, on Wednesday, by Mr. Hodgeson, on account of the trustees of the late Mr. Robert Cadell. The conditions of sale stipulated that the purchaser of the above should take the remaining stock, in the hands of the publishers, at the sum of £10,000, or at a price to be determined upon by referees. It was stated by the auctioneer that the sale of the "Waverley Novels" during the last two years had amounted to 71,000 volumes. The biddings commenced at £5000, and advanced to £14,500. These terms not being accepted, the whole of the property was bought in for £15,000, by Mr. James Mylne, the agent of the trustees.

On Friday, the 21st, the anniversary of his birthday, a massive silver tea and coffee equipage and salver were presented to Mr. C. Mitchell, the well-known advertising agent and publisher, of Red Lion-court, Fleet-street. This very handsome present was purchased by the proceeds of a subscription entered into by upwards of two hundred authors, proprietors, and editors of the provincial press, with a few private friends. The subscription (which amounted to £170) was originated by some gentlemen connected with the "country press," who felt deeply sensible of the services which Mr. Mitchell had rendered their order in various ways, particularly in his *Newspaper Press Directory*, and in establishing a "Literary Agency," by means of which a regular intercommunication between London authors and publishers and the proprietors and editors of the provincial journals is kept up. It was also intended to mark their sense of his personal urbanity and kindness. The presentation took place at the Sussex Hotel, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street, in the presence of a select circle of literary friends. T. Henderson, Esq., of the *Port of Portsmouth Guardian*, occupied the chair; and the testimonial was presented, with an appropriate address, by F. G. Tomlins, Esq., honorary treasurer. Mr. Mitchell, on receiving the gift, feelingly alluded to the pleasure which the events of that day afforded him, and expressed his gratification at finding that his past services had been appreciated, and his determination to endeavour to strike out, if possible, new sources of usefulness.—*Morning Post*.

Samuel Chifney, once the companion and friend of princes and nobles, and who almost died with them in the style of his living, figured in the Newmarket County Court on Thursday as a petitioner for protection under the Protection Acts. On a former occasion he was

opposed on the ground that he had not given up his house and furniture. Mr. Naylor appeared as counsel for Chifney, and stated that a schedule of the furniture had been filed, which had been identified as belonging to other parties; and as to the house, the will of the late Mr. Thornhill was also filed, which showed that the insolvent had only a personal privilege in the use of it, and not an estate for life. The friendship of parties, who wished that the insolvent should spend the remainder of his days in peace, would enable him to pay £100 into the hands of the assignees. The case was adjourned, the judge advising the creditors to accept the offer.—*Cambridge Chronicle*.

An accident happened to the King of Prussia's carriage as he was entering Berlin from Charlottenburgh on the 20th instant. It had just driven at a rapid rate through the Brandenburgh-gate, when in the Pariser Platz one of the hind wheels came off, the axle having broken. The carriage was dragged for some distance in an awkward position before it could be stopped. The King alighted, and waited in the house of General Wrangell till another carriage arrived.

The Prince of Salerno, uncle of the King of Naples who has been for a long time labouring under a nervous complaint, complicated with erysipelas, died on the 10th instant, and was buried on the 14th with great pomp, at the Church of Santa Chiara. He was born on the 2nd of July, 1790, and was consequently in his sixty-first year. He married Marie Clementine Françoise Josephine, Archduchess of Austria, daughter of Francis I, on the 28th of July, 1816. He has left a daughter, Princess Marie Caroline Augusta, born on the 20th of April, 1822.

The Honourable Henry Clay arrived in New York on the 10th instant, and was enthusiastically welcomed. A ball was given on the same evening, in honour of his visit. He left New York on the 11th instant, for a visit to Havannah, and not less than 10,000 persons were present to witness his embarkation in the steamer Georgia.

Fanny Wright Darusmont has filed a bill in Chancery, in Cincinnati, containing 80,000 words, to recover back from her husband a large amount of property which she held at her marriage.

The Havannah correspondent of the *New York Herald* says:—"Salvi, our 'gran tenore,' goes to Europe in the next direct steamer. I am told that he has made an arrangement with Barnum to sing in London twenty nights with Jenny Lind, for 9000 dollars, and that there is a clause in the contract by which he is obliged to go to your city in case the 'Nightingale' should not cross the Atlantic next summer."

Jenny Lind had presented 4800 dollars to the charities of New Orleans. She will probably leave New York for Liverpool and London in July or August next.

The number of marriages this year at Paris, amongst the working class, is said to be larger than usual. In the most populous arrondissements of the capital, the boards on which the publication of bans are placarded are constantly covered.

A letter of the 22nd instant, from Berne, states that on that day, at eight in the morning, eighty peasants made a descent on the radical town of Fribourg, and succeeded in getting possession of some cannon in the old establishment of the Jesuits. The Government caused the towns to ring, and the generale to beat. The militia marched against the peasants, who occupied the upper part of the town. The affair was smart, but of short duration. Eight were killed or wounded. The eighty peasants in question formed the advanced guard of a body of 2000, which dispersed when they heard of the defeat of their comrades.

The Jesuits have obtained the restitution of the Borromean College, at Rome. The Minister of Commerce, who inhabited it, has been obliged to leave it in less than decent haste, and retire to the custom-houses.

A plot of certain Ulemas to poison the sultan, was lately revealed by Dr. Spitzer, the sultan's physician, who pretended to listen to their proposals, and procured from the conspirators a written promise to pay him a million of piastres. The brother of the sultan, who was at the head of the plot, has since disappeared—some conjecture by the bowstring, and several of the Ulemas concerned have met with the same fate. Dr. Spitzer, after having been well rewarded by the sultan, withdrew from the reach of vengeance, and is now residing with his wife at Trieste.

The city of Levissi, in the island of Rhodes, has been destroyed by an earthquake.

Abbas Pasha has officially announced his intention of making a railroad between Cairo and Alexandria, thus bringing into close proximity the two principal towns in Egypt—a boon of inestimable benefit to the country, and which will give increased facilities to the transit to India. It is confidently expected that the works will be commenced in the course of the present year, under the auspices of Mr. Robert Stephenson.

Advices have been received one day later than the last date from the Cape of Good Hope, but they bring little additional intelligence. A writer from Somerset says that the Kaffirs and Hottentots are committing great havoc. They have mustered very strong at a place called Waterkloot, not far from Ainslie's-place. It is rumoured that they intend to attack Somerset. The Dutch settlers are said to show very little willingness to fight under Sir Harry Smith.

The Natal papers lately received represent the colony as being generally prosperous. Civilization is extending itself in the regular English fashion. Omnibuses are already in active use in the capital, Petermaritzburg, at the charge of 3d. for passengers.

The Californian papers contain accounts of several engagements with the Indians. In one case a party of sixty

Americans attacked 400 Indians who were strongly entrenched in one of their villages. After three hours' fighting the Indians were driven from the village with a loss of sixty killed. The Americans, who had lost only two men, by their own account, burnt the village, and then retreated, with the Indians pursuing them for ten miles. In another case seventy two Americans were surrounded by the Indians while working in a gulch or ravine, near which they had staked their arms, not suspecting any danger.

The fugitive slave law in Boston is becoming more complicated than ever. Mr. Charles Davis, whose case was on after that of Elizur Wright, was acquitted for want of evidence. James Scott, a coloured man, was not examined, and bound over for trial in the sum of \$100 dollars. Two similar cases still remain to be disposed of. Robert Morris, jun., a coloured lawyer, and J. H. Coborn, clothes dealer, were also arrested on a charge of aiding in the rescue of the slave Shadrach. On the other hand, G. Lunt, United States district attorney, has been arrested and held to bail in the sum of 10,000 dollars, on a writ brought by Burton, the coloured man recently arrested in Salem. G. T. Curtis, United States Commissioner, and P. Riley, Deputy United States Marshal, have also been held for trial in 10,000 dollars each on charges of arresting the fugitive Shadrach. The grounds upon which these suits are brought are, that the fugitive slave law is unconstitutional, and that the officers proceeded without authority.

The packet-ship Infanta, which sailed from Liverpool to New York a few weeks ago with a full complement of emigrants, was compelled to put into Halifax through want of provisions. Fourteen persons had died on board the vessel.

In answer to a memorial from the Assembly of Jamaica, implying that all captured Africans should be sent to Jamaica, and other measures adopted for the speedy and adequate supply of free emigrants from Africa, Earl Grey writes to send captured slaves to Jamaica on the ground that all the Africans who wish to go to West India colonies are sent there free of expense:—"The number, therefore, to be sent to Jamaica could only be increased by depriving some of the other colonies of the share of this advantage which they now enjoy; and, considering that in those colonies the want of labour is not less urgent than in Jamaica, though they have hitherto been spared from the disease which has visited that island, this is a course which her Majesty's Government could not with propriety adopt." The number of deaths from slaves in Jamaica during the months of October, November, and December, 1850, was estimated by Governor Sir C. Grey at 12,000 to 13,000; the greatest mortality was amongst those of unmixed African descent. Earl Grey suggests that it would be very advantageous to procure, by means of private enterprise, an adequate supply of coloured and black immigrants from the United States and Canada.

The metropolitan delegates, for obtaining the total and unconditional repeal of the window tax, held a meeting on Wednesday evening at the Marylebone Court House, "to take the most efficient measures in order to secure the above object." There was a large attendance of delegates.

A demonstration by the members of the Lambeth Reformation Association took place at the Horns Tavern, Kensington, on Wednesday evening, for the purpose of forwarding Parliamentary Reform. Sir Joshua Walmsley, M.P., took the chair, and, addressing the meeting, apologized for his apparent intrusion amongst them as chairman, a circumstance which was owing to the absence of both their members. Resolutions in favour of an extension of the suffrage and the principles of free trade were passed.

The friends of early closing held their eighth annual meeting at the Freemasons' hall, Great Queen-street, on Thursday evening. Mr. Monckton Milnes, M.P., presided. Mr. Ewart, M.P., explained to the meeting that the abolition of the late hour system was essentially necessary to the success of the efforts which were being made for the intellectual improvement of the working classes; and Mr. Hindley, M.P., urged that the marked success which had attended the working of the short hour system in factories was an encouragement to shopkeepers to abridge their hours of business. Dr. Pettigrew explained the physical evils and early deaths caused by long hours. Dr. Chalmers pointed out its demoralizing effect, and was followed by the Reverend Mr. Hughes, M.A., on the same subject.

A preliminary meeting of gentlemen belonging to the clubs of St. Sepulchre, St. Andrew's, and St. George's, Bloomsbury, was held on Thursday evening "for the purpose of devising some measures for the suppression of the further imposition of Italian organists, German band-girls, Lascars, and other foreign beggars." It was stated that the neighbourhood of Saffron-hill, Hatton-green, and the boundaries of Clerkenwell and St. John's parishes are literally infested with these unhappy creatures, who having been brought over by whole cargoes, are distributed each morning throughout the metropolis, for the purposes of absolute mendicity, coloured by the flimsy pretext of a street organ. It was resolved to call a public meeting on the subject.

A public meeting was held at the Literary and Scientific Institution, John-street, Tottenham-court-road, on Monday, for the purpose of petitioning Parliament against the Sunday Trading Bill. Mr. Thomas Cooper, who was called to the chair, said if some public stand were not made against the bill, they would inevitably be defeated by the Jeannite influence that was now so predominant. He deprecated the system they were endeavouring to introduce, restricting people in the sale of certain articles which did not in any way affect the rich, but only the poorer classes of the community. He next alluded to the act of Parliament, and quoted from several clauses to prove the oppressive nature of the bill,

particularly adverting to the prohibition of the sale of unstamped newspapers. It was resolved to petition Parliament, praying them to reject the bill and throw open the British Museum, the National Gallery, and other National Exhibitions on Sundays and other holidays.

At the suggestion of Mr. Panizzi, the trustees of the British Museum have ordered that from the beginning of May to the end of August, during the present year, the rooms containing the collection of the printed books shall be kept open for the first five days of the week for the public to walk through, like the gallery of antiquities or natural history. On Saturday and Sunday admission will be refused to all persons indiscriminately. This arrangement is only temporary, and the former rule will be resumed on the 1st of September.

It is reported that the Government, convinced at last of the necessity of moving the National Gallery from the building in Trafalgar-square, have adopted the suggestions thrown out in various quarters, and propose to place the pictures in Kensington Palace.—*Observer*.

The executive committee appointed to carry out the design of a Cambridge Military Asylum, in memory of the late duke, are about erecting an asylum for forty widows of British soldiers at Kew, and with the intention, hereafter, of making accommodation for one widow, at least, of each of the regiments in her Majesty's service.

An order has just appeared, signed by Lord Truro, abolishing certain fees heretofore payable in Chancery, and reducing others.

A numerous deputation of Members of Parliament, consisting chiefly of Irish representatives, waited on Sir Charles Wood at his official residence in Downing-street on Saturday for the purpose of pressing upon his attention the expediency of abolishing the present duties on paper. Sir Charles said he would pay every attention to the subject, but he could not at present pledge himself to any particular course.

The South-Western Railway Company have submitted to the Home Secretary a statement of the advantages that would result from making the port of Southampton a central dépôt for emigrants, both to the public interest and to the emigrants themselves. Among the advantages enumerated are safety as regards navigation, saving of time, punctuality, and economy. The company offer to make arrangements to secure conveyance to and from Southampton at moderate rates, and in every respect to meet all the requirements of the emigration commissioners.

A notice has been issued by the City Commissioners of Sewers, that on and after Monday first, till further notice, in consequence of its being the intention to repave London-bridge, no vehicles of any description will be allowed to pass by that bridge. The cost of repaving is estimated at about £2600.

In consequence of a recent accident to the brougham of a medical gentleman in North Audley-street, and of repeated complaints which have been made with respect to frightening horses, and endangering the lives of the public by the street organ nuisance, the commissioners of police have issued a general order for the suppression of street organ playing in the public thoroughfares of the metropolis.

Another prison is being built in Glasgow to hold the fast increasing mass of crime devolved upon us by the enormous immigration of our Irish neighbours. It is intended as a penitentiary, and is to be four stories in height. There will be forty cells on each floor, or about 160 in all. It will be completed in the course of the summer.—*North British Mail*.

A public dinner under the auspices of the Scottish Association for the Protection of Native Industry, is to take place in the Music Hall, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 22nd of April. The Duke of Montrose or the Earl of Eglington is expected to preside.

A novel kind of paper is stated to have been produced at the mills of Mr. Thomas H. Saunders, of Darenth, in Kent. It contains a water-mark portrait of the Queen, contrived, not as the ordinary water mark in mere outline hitherto used in bank-note and other paper, but so as to give the gradation of light and shade of an Indian ink drawing, such as is seen in the porcelain pictures introduced from Germany. It is the invention of Mr. Oldham, the engineer of the Bank of England, and as its production involves many difficulties, an opinion is entertained that it may form a valuable addition to bank-note paper for the prevention of forgery.

One of the most remarkable passages ever made across the Atlantic under sail only has just been accomplished by the new American ship Typhoon. She sailed from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, for Liverpool on her trial trip, coming over in ballast only, and entered the Mersey on Wednesday, having completed the passage in fourteen days from port to port.

A fire attended with the loss of two lives, through intemperance, took place in John-street, Harper-street, New Kent-road, on Wednesday morning about four o'clock. Mr. and Mrs. Potts, the two persons burned to death, went home late in a state of intoxication. In retiring to bed, it is supposed that they dropped a spark upon the bedding, and that when the flames broke out they were unable to help themselves. When the fire had been extinguished, the two bodies were as black as a coal, every article of furniture in the place being consumed, and not so much as even the trace of a bedstead being left.

A steam-boiler explosion took place at Manchester on Tuesday afternoon, by which eight lives were lost.

The whole of the bodies of the unfortunate miners in the Nitshill colliery, have now been recovered. It is uncertain when the pit will again be in a working condition. A consultation of engineers is arranged to consider as to the measures which should be adopted for the attainment of that end. From the extent of the pit, and the nature of the explosion, it will probably be a considerable time before it is put in the same state as it was before the catastrophe.

At Kingston Assizes on Thursday, the grand jury returned true bills for the Frimley burglary and murder against Levi Harwood, James Jones, and Samuel Harwood. The other man, Smith, has been admitted a witness for the crown. Upon the application of Mr. Robinson, the trial was fixed to take place on Monday morning, at ten o'clock. The prosecution will be conducted by Mr. Chambers, Q.C., Mr. Anson, and Mr. Robinson. The prisoners are to be defended by Mr. Ballantine, Mr. Charnock, and Mr. Woollett.

At the Dorchester Assizes on Saturday, a juror asked the judge (Mr. Baron Martin) for leave to go home; he was forty miles from home, and had served two days. The judge said if he was the only person who applied he should have no objection, but the moment he gave one permission, there would be many applications. However, he might go. Another juror then applied. The Judge: Ay, ay; there it is. The Juror: My lord, I am the master of the Sunday-school. The Judge: Well, I suppose you must go and take care of the Sunday-school.

At the Thames Police Court, on Wednesday, Charles Evans, a journeyman cooper, solicited Mr. Yardley's advice and assistance under the following circumstances. He was a member of the Coopers' Union, and the society had proscribed him for having worked in a cooperage where steam power was employed in aid of manual labour. For this offence a fine of £10 was imposed, and on his refusal to pay it a combination had been formed against him, so that he was unable to obtain employment. A master cooper in court said he knew Evans to be a good workman, and he had work enough to find him employment, but if he were to engage him the coopers in his yard would leave him, and his loss would be immense. Mr. Yardley said that something ought to be done for Evans, who had really been fighting the battle of the masters. He was astonished that the masters had not come forward as body to assist one who had been fighting their cause almost single-handed. In reply to a question of the magistrate, Evans said he could not get work out of London, as his name had been published all over the country.

At the South Lancashire Assizes, on Tuesday, Messrs. Platt and Sunderland, cotton spinners, at Lestock, near Bolton, were found guilty of leaving a shaft of their machinery unprotected, whereby the clothes of Nancy Coe, a girl in their employment, had been caught, in consequence of which she received great personal injury. The jury awarded £120 damages to her.

The sailors on strike in Liverpool still continue to perambulate the streets in procession. On Saturday night there was a performance for their benefit at the Amphitheatre.

Fanaticism has victims in all places and eras; but that such a sample of its existence as the following should be found in the New York press is not very creditable to Brother Jonathan's common sense:—"Prospectus: Disclosures from the interior, and superior care for mortals.—This publication is dictated by spirits out of the flesh, and by them edited, superintended, and controlled. Its object is the disclosure of truth from Heaven, guiding mankind into open vision of Paradise; open communication with spirits redeemed; and proper and progressive understanding of the Holy Scriptures, and of the merits of Jesus Christ, from whom they originated in inspiration absolute, and of whom they teach, as the only Saviour of a disengaged and bewildered race. The circle of apostles and prophets are its conductors from the interior; holding control over its columns, and permitting no article to find place therein unless originated, dictated, or admitted by them; they acting under the direction of the Lord Supreme. James Congdon, Charles Coventry, Andrew L. Wilson, and Lonsom Bush are its publishers and proprietor; they having become, in full confidence of mind, disciples of the Lord; and being present external agents of the circle apostolic and prophetic; acting under the direction, while faithful, as instruments for the distribution of truth, &c."

The Dungarvan election ended in the return of the Honourable C. Ponsonby by a majority of seventy-five over Mr. Maguire, the Tenant League candidate.

The quiet county of Down was the scene of a serious outrage last week. Mr. Tailor, the sheriff, accompanied by his bailiff and one policeman, were about to serve a writ on a tenant who owed four years' rent, when they saw the people leaving their houses, at the sound of horns, and gathering in a somewhat threatening manner. On proceeding a little farther they found their progress interrupted by a crowd of two hundred people, who commenced firing deliberately at the sheriff, his followers having decamped at the prospect of danger. The firing was not in a volley, but one shot followed another to the number of fifty or upwards, but fortunately without fatal effect.

At a national school in the diocese of Tuam, which was attended up to a very recent period by ninety poor Roman Catholic children, the number of pupils on Sunday week suddenly dwindled down to just one-third. Inquiries were made, and it was ascertained from some of the parents that orders had been promulgated from the chapels on the Sunday previous, threatening all sorts of pains and penalties on the bodies and souls of such fathers and mothers as would not withdraw their offspring from all schools in connection with the national board; those institutions, as well as the government colleges, having been solemnly declared to be "dangerous to the faith and morals" of the rising generation of Romanists.

A meeting of the trades and temperance societies of Limerick was held in that city on Tuesday evening, for the special purpose of passing a vote of censure upon Mr. John O'Brien, M.P., for absenting himself upon the division on Mr. Disraeli's motion. Resolutions calling on Mr. O'Brien to resign, and upon the citizens of Limerick to select another candidate, were unanimously adopted, and the meeting separated.

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

EXTRAORDINARY and sudden pressure on our space has obliged us to omit several papers of interest, including the whole of two departments. We shall hope to fetch up some of these arrears in our next number.

The pressure of advertisements in particular has come upon us so rapidly and severely, that the attempt to do justice to all has entailed a very large sacrifice of space; but we shall endeavour to reconcile the claims of advertisers with those of readers, in rather a more workmanlike fashion than we have been able to command this week.

It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted it is frequently from reasons quite independent of the merits of the communication.

Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them.

All letters for the Editor to be addressed 9, Crane-court, Fleet-street, London.

FRASER'S MAGAZINE for APRIL, Price

2s. 6d., or, by Post, 3s., contains:—

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London: John W. Parker, West Strand.

Next week will be published,

SKETCHES of the POETICAL LITERATURE of the PAST HALF CENTURY. In Six Lectures, delivered at the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution. By D. M. MOIR (Festa). In folio octavo (pp. 330), price 5s.

William Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh and London.

POSTSCRIPT.

SATURDAY, March 29.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL gave another dissolving view of the Budget last night. The country is to remain in suspense for another week. After all the time that has already been wasted, Ministers cannot make up their minds to say what they intend to do till they had some more time for deliberation. Lord John was called up, early in the evening, by a question from Mr. REYNOLDS. The Member for Dublin wished to know at what period of the session he intended to introduce a bill for the abolition of ministers' money in Ireland?—

"Lord J. RUSSELL said, that before he answered the question of the honourable gentleman, it might be convenient if he stated to the House what was the course he intended to pursue with respect to public business. It was absolutely necessary they should proceed that evening with the consideration of the army estimates, in order to receive the report of the Committee of Supply. He proposed to go on with the Committee of Supply on Monday, when the Ordnance estimates would be taken, and on Friday the Chancellor of the Exchequer would state the alterations he proposed to make in his financial arrangements, and on the same day he would move in a Committee of Ways and Means resolutions in respect to the renewal of the continuance of the income tax. If the debate took place early they could go into debate on the motion of the right honourable gentleman the member for Stamford, but, if it were inconvenient to the right honourable gentleman, or was late in the evening, he should propose to take it on the following Monday; the only day which he thought would be free for orders of the day before Easter would be necessarily applied to the financial arrangements. He very much regretted that in consequence of that necessity he was unable to proceed as he should wish to do after the second reading of the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill. He could not proceed with it before Easter, and he had stated the other night that he should not propose to take it on Monday, April 28, but he thought it would be perfectly fair to take it on the next order day, which would be the Friday following. He should, therefore, propose to take the committee on the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill on Friday, the 2nd of May. (*Hear, hear.*) With regard to other measures of which he had given notice, one of the most important, and which he had stated he should bring forward in the present session, was the Bill for the Abolition of the Office of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. (*Hear, hear.*) It appeared that since the proposal was made last year there had been a much stronger opinion in Ireland than existed last year with respect to the continuance of that office (*hear*), and he should say the general opinion of Ireland was favourable to its continuance at the present time. (*Hear, hear.*) His opinions as to the advantage to be gained to the empire, and more especially to Ireland, from the discontinuance of that office, remained unaltered; but seeing the quantity of business must be such as to throw that measure late into the session, and seeing the opinions that had been expressed on the subject, he did not intend to press that measure. (*Cheers.*) With regard to the particular question of the honourable Member, it certainly was his intention to bring forward a measure on the subject; but there were other measures which it was indispensably necessary to propose, and, if he should find there was time for that measure in the present session, he should introduce

it, but he was not prepared at present to fix a time, or to say absolutely whether or not he should introduce it in the present session. He should add that, when the House had gone into committee on the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, it would be most desirable they should proceed to the main stage of the bill, and should finish it as soon as possible."

At a later period Mr. HUME tried to prevail on Lord John to make the financial statement before asking the House to vote away any money. He even wished to move that the House should not go into a Committee of Supply till the financial statement had been made; but the Speaker told him that was out of order. Lord JOHN said he had distinctly intimated his intention to go into committee after the recent debate was disposed of.

Mr. HUME: "Will the noble lord bring in the Budget on Monday?"

Lord John Russell made no reply.

Mr. W. WILLIAMS expressed his astonishment that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should have delayed his financial statement moment longer than was necessary. Mr. BERNARD OSBORNE asked whether the Chancellor could say what course he intended to take with the window tax, and the timber and coffee duties? Sir CHARLES WOOD did not think that it would be for the benefit of the public service that he should make the statement at present. "He did not mean to say that he could not make his financial statement on Monday, but it was indispensable that no time should be lost in taking some votes."

Mr. STUART WORTLEY gave notice of his intention to call the attention of Government on Tuesday, "to the nature, numbers, and character, of the foreigners at present residing in London, and should inquire whether they had taken, or proposed to take, any steps for keeping the peace of this city, and for preventing any disturbance of our relations with foreign and friendly powers." Mr. BAILLIE COCHRANE was also anxious to know whether Sir George Grey had had any communication with foreign Governments regarding the inconvenience that might arise from large bodies of foreigners coming to this country in their uniforms and with side-arms during the Exhibition, and whether Government intended taking any steps to prevent foreign agitators coming to England holding meetings, and making speeches "calculated to excite anarchy and sedition in the kingdoms of our allies?" Sir GEORGE GREY said he had not meddled with the side-arms question, and as for the threatened political meetings, Government would not fail to take all the necessary steps to prevent any breach of the law.

The House having gone into a Committee of Supply, Mr. FOX MAULS moved the Army Estimates, which appear to differ very little from those of last year. The gross sum required for effective and non-effective service is £5,925,945, a reduction of £93,452 upon the corresponding charges of last year. Mr. HUME expressed his gratification at the economy which has been exercised of late years. They had made considerable progress, but still he was not satisfied. He proposed a resolution to reduce the number of men by 5000. Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH, in supporting the motion, remarked upon the large increase in the forces employed in the American colonies, occasioning an enhancement of more than £300,000 in the annual expenditure. As these dependencies were now endowed with the means of self-government, they might be called on to provide for their own protection. Lord JOHN RUSSELL deprecated the proposal of reduction to be effected upon the forces now on service in North America, the total number of which was a little over 8000 men. On a division only 47 voted for the amendment, and 186 against it. After some remonstrances against proceeding with money votes at so late an hour, Lord John Russell agreed to stop, on condition that the committee of supply should take precedence of other business on Monday. This was agreed to after some demur from Mr. ADDERLEY, and the House rose at half-past one.

Prince Albert presided yesterday afternoon at a meeting of the Commission for promoting and encouraging the fine arts in the rebuilding of the Palace of Westminster. In the evening the Queen and Prince Albert attended Drury-lane Theatre.

The Princess of Prussia has received an invitation from Queen Victoria to visit London during the Exhibition. She will leave in the beginning of May, and will be followed shortly afterwards by the Prince of Prussia.

A deputation, consisting of the Lord Mayor, Mr. G. Barnard, M.P.; Alderman Copeland, M.P.; Mr. R. Currie, M.P.; Mr. G. Dundas, M.P.; Sir J. Duke, Baronet, M.P.; Sir E. Filmer, Baronet, M.P.; Mr. Masterman, M.P.; Baron Rothschild, M.P.; Alderman Sidney, M.P.; Mr. S. Axford, M.P.; Mr. Wyld, M.P.; and a number of other gentlemen, waited upon Sir George Grey at the Home-office yesterday, on the subject of the projected removal of Smithfield-market. Baron Rothschild, Sir J. Duke, and Mr. Alderman Sidney urged strongly the injustice and impolicy of precipitating a decision upon so important a question without affording an impartial hearing to all the parties concerned. Mr. Barlow Childs, surgeon to the police, remarked that Smithfield was the healthiest of the six districts into which London is divided:—

"He regarded Smithfield as one of the lungs of the city—a reservoir of pure air, essential to the health of a densely crowded district. It was a remarkable fact that, during the visitation of cholera to this city, in 1848, there had occurred no case within the area of Smithfield. Out of 150 cases of spasmodic diarrhoea in the police force, not one had happened in the Smithfield district."

"Sir George Grey asked whether that fact was not referable to the open area rather than to the cattle-market?

"Mr. Childs assented; but asked whether the open area was not necessitated by the cattle-market?

"The Reverend J. Jackson, A.M.: As vicar of St. Sepulchre, he must say it was his deliberate conviction that the scheme of the corporation would confer a lasting benefit upon the community. The physical, sanitary, and especially the moral interests of his parishioners, were seriously involved in this question. Ten or twelve acres of miserable courts and alleys, abounding in physical and moral abomination, would be exchanged for an open area provided with suitable accommodation for the industrious poor."

"Sir G. Grey said he had no disposition to undervalue the positive advantages of the corporation plan. It constituted an unquestionable improvement upon things as they were."

Sir George Grey, after listening attentively to the various arguments, assured the deputation that the Government had no other interest in the matter than that of maintaining the views and wishes of the public.

At the entrance of the Lord Chancellor into the Court of Chancery, yesterday morning, he was immediately followed to the bench by Sir John Romilly, in full costume, for the purpose of being sworn in to the Mastership of the Rolls. The attendance of barristers was particularly numerous, and the court in every part much crowded by spectators, among whom were several ladies, anxious to witness the ceremony of the new Master's installation to his high dignity. While the oaths of office were being administered by the clerk of the Crown, the Lord Chancellor and the whole bar remained standing. Sir John audibly repeated the words of the oaths after the officer of the court; and at the termination respectfully bowed to the Lord Chancellor and the whole bar, who very gracefully returned the compliment. Sir Alexander Cockburn has been promoted to the office of Attorney-General, in place of Sir John Romilly, and is succeeded as Solicitor-General by Mr. Page Wood. New wigs were ordered in the House of Commons last evening for Devonport in the room of Sir John Romilly, for Southampton in the room of Sir Alexander Cockburn, and for Oxford in the room of Mr. Page Wood.

On Monday morning next, the 31st instant, the enactors will make their rounds in every parish and district of the kingdom; and we earnestly hope the public will facilitate, in every possible way, the labours of those functionaries. With that view we would urge all householders and occupiers of apartments to inquire at once for the census schedule, which will no doubt have been delivered at their houses in the course of the past week, but which may possibly have been overlooked or thrown aside by servants; and it will be most desirable that they should fill in the requisite particulars, either at an early hour on Monday morning, or previously to that day—though, in the latter case, due care must of course be given to the making of any corrections which may have become necessary in consequence of the unexpected presence or absence of an inmate to-morrow night. We trust that a general desire will prevail to make the required returns with promptness and accuracy, and with strict regard to the printed instructions which will be found on the schedule. A very moderate degree of pains-taking on the part of every individual is all that is needed to the smooth and punctual performance of this great national work.—Morning Chronicle.

In order to remove any apprehension which may exist in the public mind that the opening of the Crystal Palace will be delayed beyond the originally appointed day, a notice was posted at the building yesterday, stating that one of the latest resolutions upon which the Commissioners had determined was, that the Exhibition should positively be opened on the 1st of May, as originally announced.

From various parts of the kingdom we continue to receive accounts of the election of delegates to the Chartist Convention, which meets in London on the 31st instant. At Dundee a meeting was held for the purpose on Wednesday evening, when Mr. J. Graham was unanimously appointed delegate from that town.

A file of the *Natal Witness*, with dates to January 11, has been received. The outbreak of war at the Cape colony was known at Natal on the 16th, and great anxiety was felt as to the probable influence of that event on the new settlement. The local authorities have issued any notice on the subject. Mr. Shephard, it was stated, had issued orders to the natives to be in readiness to accompany him—to the number of 20,000—into the old colony. Many of the servants at d'Urban had left their places with a view of joining the commandos, as the projected route laid down was through Faku's territory. The natives appear to be willing for the work, as it was expected that a body of 20,000 strong, coming from the rear of the Kafirs who were attacking the old settle-ments, would be followed by desirable effects.

The Swiss journals of the 25th contain but few additional details on the affair of Friburg. On the insurgents were found the list of a provisional Government charged to draw up a new constitution and a decree for establishing a court-martial with absolute power. There was also found a proclamation announcing the dissolution of the present Government, the dismissal of all functionaries &c. The *Revue de Genève* states that eight or nine persons were killed in the attempted insurrection, and the Canard, the leader, and many more of the insurgents were taken prisoners. The Council of State had declared the town in a state of siege. Neither the townsmen nor the country people at the market showed any sympathy with the movement.

The Leader

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1851.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of creation in eternal progress.—DR. ARNOLD.

EASTER RECESS—THE DISSOLUTION.

"Him whom the gods have doomed they first distract": Lord Robert Grosvenor is a petitioner to the Prime Minister on behalf of Members for extended holidays at Easter—with no work done! With the Anti-Papal Bill still in the early stages of discussion, with the Budget still unstated, without a single measure passed, Lord Robert asks for an extension of the Easter holidays. To be surprised by Easter without having done anything is an old joke—so old that it has quite lost its point, and that which was an opprobrium has become a matter of routine. But when the session thus far has been used up as a bulky appendix to Lord John's Durham letter, with the episode of Sir Charles Wood's revoke, and the farcical "Crisis," to talk of extended holidays does impart a sort of freshness to the joke.

If Members were supposed to retain any sensitive point, if even the intellectual side of their consciences were open to a twinge—which it is not—a moral might be drawn with some profit to them from Lord Robert's rebuff. Extended holidays at Easter are in themselves a thing unobjectionable: the sole reason why Members cannot have it is, the total want of progress in public affairs: the sole reason why public affairs are in a state of standstill is, that "her Majesty's Ministers" create obstructions to progress: it follows that the reason why Members cannot have their extended holidays is, the very Ministry whose existence they tolerate; Members cannot have a fortnight at Easter because the men "in power," as the saying is, are Lord John and his family party.

That personal annoyance, however, is but a very small sample of the bad debt which Members owe to Ministers: to the Ministers that themselves have made, then, Members owe this triple debt—that, after this last session of the present Parliament, they are "to go to the country" with a damaged reputation for the institution to which they belong, the House of Commons, which has worked not only ill but ridiculously; with a damaged reputation, each Member for himself individually, since there is not a man in the House who has not suffered himself to be placed in a ridiculous position; and with a damaged form of every question at present agitating the public mind.

By the singular combination of official influence and personal inability to appreciate his position, Lord John Russell was enabled to get up a huge sham agitation, in its nature impossible of settlement; he has thus embroiled the Members of all parties in a contest which excites the odium theologicum on every side, without the possibility of victory on any; he has thrown out an apple of discord which no one can snatch. At former elections, "religious liberty" has been a cry pointing to some measure that might be added to the statute-book: it has now been so twisted by the recreant champion, that unless it points at nothing, it signifies a spoiling of the statute-book, a breaking-up of the last outworks for the defence of "religious liberty." We are to defend ourselves against the shadow of the powerless Pope, by reviving the practice and spirit of persecution, and that is the form in which Members are sent by Lord John to carry the question of religious liberty to the country. The case being presented in that perverse form, the verdict must be proportionately perverse: the real defenders of religious liberty must undergo the retribution for their suffering of the recreant champion—they must be content to see their old war-cry usurped by the agents of sectarianism and intolerance, and themselves excluded; to see the befooled country elect to the next Parliament an overwhelming majority of bigotry qualified by cant.

So with Financial Reform. The Wood Budget has seen the light only to cast ridicule upon mere

"reform" of finance. "Nihil tetigit quod non ornavit" the Ministerial scheme touches no branch of the subject without defiling it. Sir Charles Wood has marked taxes for repeal which still disfigure the tariff; he has stimulated a paroxysm of taxation-repeal only to leave it unsatisfied; he has set his mark upon the debt as ripe for the axe, and left it standing for popular hatred; in short, he has contrived to raise such a feeling against the existing system of finance, that every moderate proposition on the Downing-street scale will fall short of the public expectancy. As often happens with feeble rashness, Sir Charles has not only "raised the fires he cannot quench," but such as will task the powers of stronger men than himself.

Lord John has a little Reform Bill in his pocket, and with the inverted adroitness in which his party has grown so skilled, he has contrived to render that Reform Bill impossible. He has spoiled his own Reform Bill by permitting Mr. Locke King to establish a larger expectation in the public mind; at the same time he has thrown over Mr. Locke King's project, the ridicule of the Ministerial crisis; even still larger extensions of the suffrage derive a reflected ridicule from any air of competing with those damaged projects; so that in order to escape from the regions of farce into that of serious measures, it will be necessary, as the *Times* says, "to go to the circumference."

The Minister, permitted by the Commons, has placed Members in this predicament—that if they "go to the country" with professions and propositions on a scale which they suppose suited to the present middle class constituency, they will be laughed at; and if they desire to rise above the reach of ridicule, they must propose measures of a scale which they are accustomed to regard as too alarming for the shopocracy. The public would be surprised to learn, for instance, the extent to which it has itself become reconciled to the idea of Universal Suffrage; but Members are afraid to say so, lest they should startle constituencies. The whole Member class and its adherents, therefore, is driven to the expedient usual with those whose secret thoughts go beyond their professions; they will propose sham measures which they expect to be failures, hoping that disaster will suggest the conviction which they are afraid to hint. The next Parliament will reflect the next general election—it will be a bigoted, violent, canting, disingenuous Parliament, elected on sham pretences for the express purpose of defeating the professions both of candidates and constituents; created to defeat itself, it will be a brawling frustration, a loud lie, intended to expose its own falsehood at the crooked means of suggesting an anterior truth. The extent to which Parliamentary corruption of every kind has now gone—excepting, perhaps, a mitigation of direct buying and selling, would surprise all as much as it might disgust and alarm, if we could put in print the well-known secrets which are the jokes of the initiated. But, who cares? Total corruption has engendered its usual progeny, total indifference and scepticism. To be "practical" in politics means that a man is to be without Faith or Hope; public spirit is a jeer, zeal an opprobrium. From Prime Minister to "independent Member," all yield to the despicable destiny of the day—each one hopes that "it will last my time."

Things have got so bad, however, that men are consciously putting their trust in deliberate falsehood; political parties are buying up tickets in the lottery of lies; principles are staked with political existence; and even Conservatives are making their calculations as to the prizes which may turn up in a revolution. It was the consciousness of that feeling which made the *Globe* and *Post* hint exhortations "to Liberals and others," that they should abstain from disturbing Lord John as they would from cutting the dykes. Alas! the *Post* and *Globe* are the twin Cassandra and Partington of the future: the tide is coming.

ALAS, POOR ITALY!

THERE are now, by the last accounts, 183,000 Austrians in Italy. Naples swarms with 120,000 native and foreign troops. Even the Duke of Parma will not trust himself to his Croatian garrisons, but must needs put himself on the war footing, and keeps 2000 of his own cut-throats under arms.

There must be order in Italy, one would think, or there is no virtue in cannon and bayonets. Yet the returns of the last three years give 8942 crimes against public security—murders, arsons, and robberies, all deeds of open violence, for the Papal

provinces of the Legations alone. That famous band of Passatore, which laid a town of 4000 inhabitants under contribution, which spread alarm and dismay throughout the highroads of Central Italy, and stood several days' fight against large Roman and Austrian detachments, turns out to have never exceeded the number of sixty brigands.

All this according to official accounts in the newspapers.

A young man—a student of very good family—is mercilessly flogged at Parma for having walked past the royal nurse and infant without taking the cigar from his mouth: an unwary gentleman, of the highest respectability, receives the bastinado, having ventured within the precincts of the new fortifications with which the little Bourbon is now encompassing the capital of his states; the Duke himself having caught him in *flagrante delicto*, and insisting on the infliction of the brutal penalty on the spot, under his own eyes, and regardless of the ignorance of his edict, pleaded by the stranger in his excruciation.

We hear of these anecdotes, we are startled by their frequent recurrence, and ask with a shudder: How long can a country in such conditions keep its place in the muster-roll of civilized nations? Whence is salvation, or even temporary relief, to come for unfortunate Italy?

Will the Austrians take pity on her? Shall not even the order that reigns at Vienna be extended to Parma and Bologna? Why should she affect remonstrance or admonition? Why lecture those wretched rulers on righteousness and moderation? Her very Croatians give the best example of continence and discipline; against the insolence of those petty despots, against the violence of their lawless hirelings, the country has no better guardian angels than what are called the "barbarians."

For, to this we are come at last: that the Duchies and Romagna can see no possible deliverance save in a direct and complete subjection to Austria, in their association to the fate of Lombardy and Venice.

And would not Rome herself be Austrian? Would not Naples? or has Milan great reason to envy the mock independence of Tuscany? Since Italy cannot belong to herself, why not wholly to Austria or wholly to France? Why should none but Pope and Princes, Priests and Monks—none but the powers of evil—enjoy liberty of action; and even they, so far only as they are bent on evil, and no farther?

Ferdinand of Naples is depopulating both Sicilies. Nothing but cowls and uniforms to be seen about the Strada Toledo; and, anon, preceded by a squadron of cavalry, followed by a squadron of cavalry, the bullet-proof carriage of the bloated King rattles forth—the King, the *People-Eater*.

Like his grandfather before him, he only closes one monster trial to issue orders for new arrests and proscriptions. And, like his grandfather, he summons his judges to him, feasts them and closets himself up for hours with them, to give them the benefit of his right-royal definition of justice; and dismisses them with great show of ceremony, and whispers, with his parting bow, in their ears: "*Impendetene assai.*" String up a good lot of them! There are those living who remember hearing old Ferdinand utter those identical words to a deputation from the Supreme Court which waited upon him on board Nelson's flagship, in 1799.

Nor do we complain of executions, banishments, imprisonments. The fate of the gallant patriots Porio, Settembrini, and others, chained hand to hand with common malefactors, touches us not so deeply as the flagrant corruption of officers, judges, and witnesses, of the whole body politic, which compliance with the mere forms of legality in those sham trials renders imperative on that unprincipled Government. There is no such thing as truth or honesty to be found in Naples—what wonder? The head of the state glories in open perjury. He swears to-day: the Pope absolves him from all obligations to-morrow. Why should his subjects, down to the lowest Lazzarone, pique himself with greater loyalty or veracity than his master? Society is rotten to the very core. Talk of corruption or demoralization! Why, the wonder is that a single man can breathe in Italy untainted with infidelity and despair; that one still meets with human countenances; that the trodden slaves do not walk on all fours like the beasts of the field.

What people can withstand such princes? such soldiers, such priests? What ideas can spring up at Naples, at Rome, at Parma, at Bologna, about

God's justice or Providence? Well may the brutalized populace scourge their saints, their idols. In Heaven as on earth, they have no idea of power, except from the evil it inflicts. What remains to them but, in the terrible words of the old Patriarch, to "curse God and die?"

WHOLESALE AGGRESSION ON THE RIGHT OF WAY AT HORNSEY.

THE most sweeping attack ever made upon the public ways and footpaths about London has just been formally opened in Parliament, but only, we are convinced, to fail. Englishmen have very generally, but not less naturally and properly, shown jealousy at any interference with the right of way; and especially has that been the case round London, where the right is at once most valuable and most threatened. The defence, if vigorous and persevering, has usually been successful, and many a pathway preserved to the public can attest the spirit and obstinacy of some local champion. The way through Richmond-park has more than once been threatened, in vain. Hampstead-heath has been defended against proprietary encroachments. That which has been denied, however, to the Crown, or to a Lord of the Manor, is now attempted in a sweeping fashion by a mere trading interest, which has no prerogative, no tradition, no special claim upon the deference of the public.

The Great Northern Railway Company has hitherto been bound to make proper and safe footpaths over or under its railroads, where the rail crosses established ways; but, to avoid that expense, the Company has introduced a bill into Parliament, this session, for shutting up established ways in such cases. The bill has excited the greatest interest amongst the inhabitants of Hornsey, whose rights are more immediately at stake; but, of course, if the Northern Company were to succeed, other companies would follow the convenient example: the whole kingdom, therefore, is interested in a measure which threatens local rights throughout the country.

The bill modestly recites, that doubts have arisen whether the Company can stop up footpaths and extinguish rights of way across stations and works. There are no such doubts; the bill starts with reciting the thing which is not. It proceeds, however, to enact, that the Company shall be at liberty to extinguish rights of way and stop up footpaths which would cross the line; and it enumerates various ways and paths thus destined for extinction.

If the recital is false, and the enactment arbitrary, the pretext is not less ridiculous: it is humanely alleged, that the footpaths are productive of great danger to the public; in total forgetfulness of the fact, that the danger arises, not from the path, but from the railway! It is not paths that come upon you, unaware, with all the destructive force of steam. The harmless path, moreover, was there before the railway was thought of; and the law provides for the public safety by requiring certain modes of carrying the path over or under the railway, with appeals to magistrates in doubtful cases. The Company it seems, has neither obeyed the law nor appealed to the magistrates for permission to stop up paths; but has taken the shorter cut of building straight across, and then sending a bill to Parliament with a false recital and an arbitrary enactment to stop up the paths which the railway has rendered dangerous.

The parish in vestry assembled has appointed a committee to vindicate the public rights; and that committee has extensively circulated a printed statement of the case. The aggression is felt to be the more grievous, since the paths which are threatened with stoppage lead close to the intended new Park. Degenerate as the House of Commons may be, it is scarcely possible that it can refuse to throw out the bill on a plain statement of the facts; but if it should be so corrupt—"thank God there is a House of Lords," and the Hornsey committee will resort to that Chamber which has not quite forgotten to defend the ancient ways.

QUARREL OVER THE TALBOT CASE.

LET the Church of England go, says the Bishop of Oxford, and then "the war of all sects," followed by "the end of all religion." We may demur to the philosophy or even the piety which can suppose it possible that the Eternal Catholic Faith can be destroyed, because human institutions, shaped for its expression in a particular age and a particular country, may pass away. But there is nevertheless a deep truth in the warning. Neither institutions nor the mind of man can fail to suffer from the anomalies which defenders of the Church

of England have been so madly fomenting. The Bishop of Oxford may be a wily ecclesiastic; he may have his objects in shielding Puseyism; but it is unquestionably true that every blow which tells against the Roman Catholic Church shakes institutions, shakes the Church of England; true that the dissensions of Catholic and Protestant damage Christianity; that the evil speaking of creed against creed abates for a time the influence of religion.

The papers are full of Miss Talbot's case. The Roman Catholic daughter of a Roman Catholic father, heiress of a large fortune, is placed by her guardian, with the assent of the Lord Chancellor, to reside in a convent. The tenure of her lodging, her relations with the Abbess, her own ultimate intentions, become the subject of animated discussion in newspaper and Parliament; her stepfather happens to be a Protestant, a Whig, a Berkeley, a supporter of Lord John's Anti-Papal Bill, and a petitioner in Chancery; and he becomes, not only eloquent himself, but the cause of eloquence in others, on behalf of the young lady, her destiny, and her £80,000. In the heat of shamming discussion raised by this sham aggression, conventional life in England is discussed as if the seclusion were guarded by the absolute power and the live burial of Papacy in its prime; so openly does bigotry incite men to forget time and country.

But the discussion goes far beyond the position of Miss Talbot. Every kind of scandal is fished out. In the *Times* "Hatty" endeavours to get up a case to establish the impossible notion that Lord Chancellor Truro had winked at Miss Talbot's sacrifice. "O. H. F." rakes up "a little anecdote of atrocious pillage and cruelty," in Berne, by which Clara Bafond was consigned to a convent and madness, with the sacrifice of £12,000 in property. "Anti-Humbug" calls to mind that Mademoiselle Heldivier, daughter of the Chargé d'Affaires at Turin, was decoyed from her family. And in Parliament, Mr. Henry Drummond roundly and sweepingly asserts that convents are "brothels"! Speakers who thus confound the volunteer conventional life of England, necessarily a picked society, with the incidents of countries where conventional life is enforced, and is not supplied by a selected society,—those who cast about firebrands of scandal which every man who can think twice knows to be false, and which provoke an immediate revulsion of feeling against the speaker,—fail to strike the institution which they would assail; but if their blow is not spent in air, they do strike where they would defend. It is not Catholics alone that grasp at property: do we not hear of Church extensions? Have we had no "Lady Hewley's charities"? Is the hand that is so rash at casting stones without sin? When Mr. Henry Drummond asserts, as of his own knowledge, that convents are houses of ill fame, are we not charitably to conjecture that the wanderings of his indiscreet years have happened so long ago as to make his memory miscall some of the places which he has visited? Or that in some youthful experience he underwent a ludicrous hoax as to the ladies who were passed off for nuns? Is it not better to let him off with this conjecture, than to suppose that uncharity and vileness of language are essential traits of Evangelical Protestantism?

Dr. Wilberforce calls to mind that the Romanizing clergymen who are the real objects of assault, represent the same type of High Churchmen who preserve the continuity of the Church of England through the dangers of Puritanism; which is true. Cast away the Puseyism at one end, with the Bennetts and Dodsworths, and the Puritanism at the other end, with the Baptist Noels and Gorhams, and the Platonism at the heart, and what is left of the Church of England? On the other hand, let the Church of England pull its sister Church to pieces, and it will but teach to Dissent how churches can be undone; let Dissent pull down the Church of England, and it will but illustrate to the worldly and the sceptical how much of churches is made by hands. It seems to us that none of the parties engaged in this theological contest can gain a victory without drawing upon their own heads an overwhelming Samsonian defeat. This destructive process may be a means, like all other conflicts, of promoting ultimate truth; but conflict is not necessary to truth, nor the most direct path to it. On the contrary, there is now a healthier spirit abroad, which has gradually been developing the truth that is in every Church; a development that this contest disturbs. A wiser piety would look at home, where it has the fullest influence to redress abuses. The pious man will know that the exer-

tions which only provoke resistance, anger, and the standing by abuses in a Church to which he is alien, may fetch out the true spirit which is in his own. We assert that throughout this conflict, truth and truth alone is absolutely safe; but we transitory beings it is that suffer from the obscuration while the conflict lasts; as existence may be darkened to the insect of a day, by the cloud which ultimately melts before the irresistible power of the sun.

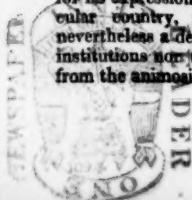
ESSEX ANARCHY AND YORKSHIRE ORGANIZATION.

THE labour question is becoming complicated with the practical working of the Poor-law, in a mode which will render impossible much longer delay of some attempt to grapple with it. Scarcely a week passes, without striking evidence that whole classes of the labouring population are undergoing a process of being beaten down to the level of pauperism; at which low level they are met by a law that does not welcome them, but is expressly framed to "repel" them. Inasmuch, however, as the law cannot repel whole classes, it always breaks down under extensive pressure; as it did most signally at Leicester, and has done more recently at Carlisle. Its Managers then resort to some exceptional device, some wholesale vexatious "labour test," which exasperates the paupers and produces either contumacy or despair; unhealthy moods that lead to anything but independent labour. This week the Barham rioters are to be tried, and our Saturday postscript will probably announce the result. The unhappy ringleaders may be punished, though they are far less to blame, than a system which sends a hundred and twenty ablebodied men to waste their time in a workhouse. While the trial of these men is pending, the Essex farmers, following up the advice of Mr. John Ellman in Sussex, and the conduct of the farmers in Suffolk, are announcing to their labourers, by "proclamation" that they cannot pay the rate of wages hitherto current; so that the pauperizing process is spreading like the waters over the face of Essex; agricultural labour will be converted into pauper idleness and cast from the fields into the workhouse, there to press upon a law framed not to deal with such a state of things. We have more than one sign that the labourers in Wiltshire are in a condition even more than usually hard, even more than usually discontented. It may be "practical" to let things take their course; but unquestionably it is bringing the labour question into such a mess that it is likely soon to be snatched out of the hands of practical men, so called, by those who know how to deal with human beings and set human hands to their proper use.

Pragmatical advocates of the new poor law contend that any attempt to find reproductive employment for ablebodied paupers will end in disappointment, and in proof of this they quote many failures which have taken place. But why not look rather at the successful experiments which have been made in various quarters and endeavour to imitate them. Let them take, for example, the very successful experiment at Farnley Tyas, near Huddersfield. This was an attempt to find work for unemployed workmen during the manufacturing depression of 1842, at such a rate of remuneration as would enable men with families to maintain themselves without aid from the rates. A committee of the inhabitants of the township was accordingly formed, and they agreed to rent, for five years, a plot of land belonging to the Earl of Dartmouth, five acres in extent, and overgrown with furze:

"This they set to work to reclaim, paying the labourers (out of a grant of £40 which they had obtained from the Manufacturers' Relief Fund) at the rate of 2s. per day, except those who took piece work. As they reclaimed they cultivated; and at the expiration of five years, when the possession of the land was relinquished, they had not only improved the value of the land from 5s. to 30s. an acre, but they were enabled to deposit in the bank a sum equal to the amount of the grant from the Relief Committee for use at a future emergency."

We should have wished rather more information regarding the increased value of the land. Here were five acres to which an additional value of £7 10s. per annum had been given by the hard toil of these poor men. Now, if this was handed over to the Earl of Dartmouth at the end of the five years without his giving anything for it, we may consider that the committee made him a present of something like £200, that being about the value of the improved rental of thirty years' purchase. If the committee could have bought the land in its rough state, at thirty years' purchase, all this additional value would have been theirs. But, unfortunately, the



monopoly of land in England is so close that such an arrangement can hardly ever be effected.

There are other signs besides the fearful extension of pauperism. Two criminals have been hanged this week at Chelmsford. One was a participant in those Essex poisonings which have disclosed the thoroughly diseased state of mind in wide classes of the poor—those classes that are confronted with the temptations and with the difficulties of civilization, not strengthened by its education or its facilities; but neither of the two criminals exemplified the worst depravities increasing amongst our crowded and squalid populations, of country or town. The hideous story which we told last week, of the girl who buried her child alive, stamped upon the earth which was stifling its cries, and then sat down upon the spot—even that does not exemplify the depravity which ignorance, squalor, moral desolation, and artificial excitements are extending among the hordes emigrated from the fields to crowd the slums and “bad neighbourhoods” of our towns. Every now and then the police reports open a glimpse into this hellish chasm beneath our feet—social ravines into which genteel religion seldom penetrates; abandoned abodes where the most sacred distinctions of blood and age are forgotten. It is the joint working of our repellent Poor Law, our settlement, our prejudice against organization of labour, and trust in the “higgling of the market,” that is draining the abandoned fields to crowd our towns, where labour is idle, life is diseased, and existence itself becomes identified with depravity. “Let alone” has had its day, and here are the fruits: no wonder that intelligent men, like those at Sheffield, at Bradford and the Thanet Union, at Galway and Cork, are beginning to think that it is time to try other courses.

A COUNTRY WITHOUT A BISHOP.

The Bishop of Oxford, in great alarm at the increasing nonconformity in the Church, exhorts all parties—clergy and people—to mutual forbearance. He tries to frighten Lord Ashley and his evangelical friends, by assuring them that, if they succeed in making the Tractarians leave the Church, “the Church will not long survive their expulsion, and then must come—first the war of all sects, and then the end of all religion.” But in the Bishop quite sure that this will be the result of a separation of Church and State? If he look around him he might find countries without anything which he would call a church, and yet where, what he would call religion, seems much more active than it is in England. Take, for example, the following picture of Scotland, as drawn by Henry Brougham, in 1822. He had been employed to defend a man named Williams for a libel on the clergy of Durham, and in the course of his speech he made this allusion to the destitute condition of Scotland:—

“Strange as it may seem, and to many who hear me incredulous, free as the end of the kingdom to the other, a traveller will see no such thing as a bishop—not such a thing as to be found from the Tweed to John-o’-Groats—not a mitre, nor, nor so much as a minor canon, or even a rural dean—and in all the land not a single curate—so entirely rude and barbarous are they in Scotland—in such utter darkness do they sit, that they suppose no educated man, maintain no pluralists, suffer no non-resident; nay, the poor benighted creatures are ignorant even of tithes! Not a sheep, or a lamb, or a pig, or the value of a plough-penny, do the helpless lambs render from year’s end to year’s end! Pious as their lot is, what renders it infinitely more to me to witness the return of good for evil in the demeanour of this wretched race. Under all this cruel neglect of their spiritual concerns, they are actually the most loyal, contented, moral, and religious people anywhere, perhaps, to be found in the world.”

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY SOMETIMES PERSONAL RESTRAINT. The *Globe* has reason to believe that Miss Talbot will be placed under the care of a Roman Catholic peeress of high rank. In deference to the wish expressed by the Lord Chancellor, we forbear mentioning the name. Miss Talbot seems to have been residing where she felt inclined to reside; but Protestant strangers get an idea into their heads that her liberty is infringed, and so she must go and reside where her choice had not inclined.

TAXES ON KNOWLEDGE.

Since the great meeting at St. Martin’s-hall the movement has made steady progress. The request which we published as the last act of the Newspaper Stamp Abolition Committee was complied with on Saturday, March the 8th, when a number of Members of Parliament, headed by Mr. Hume, had an interview with Lord John Russell, and urged him to repeal all the Taxes on Knowledge, and particularly the Penny Stamp. At the end of the interview, Mr. Hume left with Lord John upwards of forty unstamp'd publications containing illegal matter. We have already recorded the deputation of newspaper proprietors on the subject of the advertisement duty; by no means, however, the most pressing of the Knowledge Taxes. The Irish deputation were at

once more generous and more politic when they stated that the abolition of the paper duty would not be enough to satisfy them. In another part of our paper we publish the address of the Association for Promoting the Repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge. Our readers, whether in town or country, should now follow the advice to get up petitions; those friends of the cause who are willing to do so, or merely to allow petitions to lie in their shops, would do well to write to Essex-street, whence they may be supplied with written petitions. Last year the petitions for total repeal were twenty-one thousand; if they do not reach one hundred thousand this year it will be a proof that the people are not doing their share of the work required in their own cause.

SHAM GROCERIES.

The encouragement given to the sham grocery trade by the Treasury licence regarding coffee is producing its legitimate effect in regard to all articles of general consumption. Of forty-two samples of mustard procured from wholesale and retail dealers in the metropolis, the *Lancet* states that not one was found pure; all were more or less adulterated, and in every case the adulteration was of the same kind, wheaten flour coloured with turmeric. We see that the merchants, planters, and inhabitants of Ceylon have petitioned Parliament for relief on account of the injury done to the coffee trade by the open encouragement given to the sale of chicory, under the name of coffee. They justly complain that while the genuine article is made to pay a duty of about 100 per cent., the home-grown substitute is subjected to no duty at all. They ask for a reduction of the present duty on coffee, and for some measure to prevent the sale of chicory as coffee. By the present system, as they remark, Government is “giving a premium to fraud, punishing the fair trader, and treating the colonist worse than the inhabitant of the mother country.”

PETITION SIGNATURES.

SMITHFIELD Market is in agitation, to be removed or not to be removed; the City is torn with conflicting opinions on the subject; counter-petitions and counter-deputations are arrayed against each other; and at the Court of Aldermen, on Tuesday, Alderman Sidney was obliged to protect the petition in favour of the Corporation scheme. The signatures, he says, amount to 70,000 and will soon amount to 100,000—all the signers residents, and not some of them pickpockets, as Alderman Wilson had insinuated. Alderman Wilson calls for inquiry into the signatures. The Corporation, it seems, though it has comparatively but a trifle of numbers to deal with, is in the position of the Chartists in 1848; a few doubtful signatures are to vitiate the whole “monster petition.” Perhaps civic gentlemen can now sympathize with the difficulties of not only testing, but authenticating every signature.

OPINION AT WESTON.

THE soirée of the Mechanics’ Institution at Weston-super-Mare, is truly the sign of a great progress going on quietly throughout society. It was the fifth anniversary; among the upholders of the institution, were the High Sheriff of the county, Mr. Thomas Tufton Knyffton, an old and tried friend of liberty in the full sense of the word—he presided; there were also two Dissenting clergymen, and the Vicar of the large parish of Bamwell. The Vicar, Mr. W. H. Turner, set a fine example of generous piety, when he called for unsectarian education as the means of enabling youth to pass through a period of life most dangerous to the ignorant, and of enabling all to appreciate the religious instruction which falls dead upon the uneducated. Mr. Mears, of Taunton, painted the baneful effects of excessive competition on the working classes, and pointed their attention to co-operation. A company not only intelligent but “respectable,” listened to these truths, and with favour!

WHY DOES THE CHURCH OPPOSE EDUCATION?—We remember being told in our youthful days, that dog-fanciers succeeded in producing the race of tiny lapdogs by administering gin to them while puppies, and thus preventing their further growth. We shall not need to insist upon the correctness of our information. True or false it will to serve to illustrate our present subject. The main end of the system of education worked by the clergy seems to be, to hinder the free development of the youthful mind, and to produce a race of intellectual dwarfs. With the miserable pittance of instruction, the coarsest rudiments of knowledge imparted in their schools they mingle slavish maxims *usque ad nauseam*. Habits of inquiry constitute just the one thing which they labour to prevent—independence of mind the cardinal sin which the youngsters are taught to shun. To do what they are bid, to think as they are taught, to believe what they are told by clerical authority, to go to church without knowing why, to submit to government as it is without asking wherefore, to be reading and writing machines to subserve the purposes of the powerful and the rich—mere living copies of a primer and a prayer-book—this is what our rising generation are to gain by the generous aid of the Establishment.—*Miall’s Nonconformist’s Sketch-Book*.

Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

In the proof sheets of a recent article for the *Quarterly Review* the word *progress* was invariably spelled *progres*, and printed in italics. Upon hearing this a wit maliciously remarked, “The printer thought it was some foreign word—never having printed it before.” Indeed it is a word to startle the pages of the *Quarterly*: a word of evil omen, which must feel in those pages like a working man in ruffles, or a parvenu in May Fair!

Seriously, the word is a new word, for it expresses a new idea. Progress in our modern sense is the lever of revolutions. Formerly the golden age was always in the past; now we look forward to it, and we are to reach it through progress. But no later than the seventeenth century, when PERRAULT first in levity raised the question of the superiority of the moderns over the ancients, he was ridiculed from one end of learned Europe to the other. Among the ancients themselves, as AUGUSTE COMTE somewhere remarks, the greatest thinkers were unable to emancipate themselves from the prejudice of their having degenerated, because they had not political experience of a sufficiently extensive nature; and, indeed, only since the first French Revolution has the idea of Progress become generally accepted, although isolated thinkers had distinctly enough enunciated it—as BACON, in his famous saying, “Antiquity is the youth of the world;” and PASCAL, in that grand formula: “The whole succession of mankind, during the long course of centuries, must be considered as that of one man for ever existing and for ever learning something new.”

And at last Progress has crept new into the pages of the *Quarterly*! Where, by the way, we have sometimes seen the modern barbarism—rapidly gaining fresh territory in our language—“to progress”: a thing “progresses” there with terrible velocity.

Apropos of Progress and its Foes, are we never to hear an end to this furious twaddle about the Papal Aggression? The number of screams in pamphlets and articles, all at the same pitch, and all so senseless,

“Vexing the dull ear of a drowsy man,”

makes us regard the Aggression as a pest from the noise it has excited. Calm and sensible men raise their voices in reply, but vain the hope to smooth those turbulent brawlers! There is no *quos ego*, but Time. Among the tolerant and thoughtful protests against this clamour, we may single out GEORGE DAWSON’s two *Lectures* delivered at the Town-hall of Birmingham—the town which has the glory of having completely foiled the Anti-Papal agitators, and refused to petition the Queen. Mr. DAWSON takes a firm but temperate view of the question; one passage we emphatically endorse:—

“For the Pope’s denial of my Christianity I care not. I am used to such denials. His license to enter the kingdom of heaven I no more value than did Kings of old the liberty accorded to them by an eastern potentate, who, when he had dined, caused his herald to proclaim his gracious permission to his royal brethren to begin to feed. It may do English bishops and clergy good to be occasionally unchristianized. Apt at unchristening others, their indignant cries or whispering when subjected to the process, do but bring upon them ridicule and contempt.”

Nothing is more piquant in the successes of research than to stumble upon some modern marvel in some forgotten author; or to discover that the miracle of to-day was known a century ago. Of all the astounding novelties soliciting our attention, that of painless operation in surgical cases, by the agency of mesmerism or chloroform, is undoubtedly one of the most important. It is no novelty. PAPIN, the first who pointed out the use to which steam might be applied as a motive power, left a manuscript entitled *Traité des opérations sans douleur*, wherein he examines the different agencies by which sensibility can be suspended during opera-

tions. He did not publish it, because his colleagues the professors at Marburg violently opposed his notions and discouraged him against putting them forth. This was in 1681. Profoundly hurt at the bigotry of his colleagues, and the obstacles to which science was exposed through the reigning pedantry, PAPIN quitted the medical profession to devote himself to the study of physics, which was to immortalize him. His manuscript has recently been discovered at Marburg, in Hesse—where PAPIN was professor—and will, it is hoped, soon be given to the press.

MARIOTTI'S ITALY IN 1848.

Italy in 1848. By L. Mariotti.

Chapman and Hall.

In spite of the numerous publications, by various partisans, on the events through which Italy struggled in 1848—or perhaps somewhat also in consequence of these publications and their misleading onesidedness—a work like the present will receive general welcome. Mariotti relates with breadth yet, with minute detail, the story of the great struggle for national existence—the uprising of Italy against Austrian despotism—the causes which assisted, the causes which defeated it—the hopes, the means, the victories and defeats of the popular cause—and he relates these not as an eye witness or a partisan, but as one who, having played a part, now gathers together from friend or foe all materials, Italian, French, German, and English, and controlling the statements of one by official documents, of another by the better information of a fourth, treats them in an impartial historic spirit; or, at any rate, with as much impartiality as can be demanded from one who has strong convictions of his own.

Let us at the outset declare that we do not endorse all the opinions or criticisms of this book. On certain men and certain acts Mariotti has expressed himself in a manner to which the *Leader* would take exception; but as we have no columns to spare to enter into the discussion, we content ourselves with making this general reservation. Our differences do not blind us to the unusual vigour and spirit in which the work is executed; none can be more sensible than we of the masterly manner in which the materials are massed, and the vast details of the whole troublous year grouped into intelligible sections. The style is powerful, eloquent, epigrammatic. The narrative hurries you irresistibly onwards, and the explanatory and critical passages are so dexterously interwoven with the story that they assist instead of impeding the progress.

Italy in 1848 is not only a work of great interest, it is an enduring piece of history—hitherto the only history of these struggles that has assumed anything like completeness. From its compact pages we can make no abstract that would be readable, or would represent the book fairly; we prefer, therefore, taking an extract or two as samples of his style:—

ITALIAN NATIONALITY.

"Nothing is certainly less settled in men's minds than this same question of Italian nationality. There is a set of men, both in and out of the country, who have faith in an undying Italy, to whom the existence of an Italian nation is a long-established, growing, teeming fact, who refer to the sway twice held by Rome over the world—by Imperial Rome, by Catholic Rome—to point out in that city, in that land, in that climate, the germs of a phoenix-like vitality, a self-redeeming power,—an eternity, not of existence merely, but of greatness, of sovereign ascendancy."

"These men look forward to a third epoch; that of democratic Rome, or 'Italy of the people.' In their mind the existence of Italy is tantamount to 'Italian preminence.'

"There are other less sanguine thinkers, on the other hand, who look in vain for a nation in Italy, not in the present or future merely, but even in the past. They can see nothing in it, save only an idle, chimerical abstraction. To them the history of the country, since the time of the Caesars, suggests no idea but that of decline; of a slow and gradual, but no less unintermitting decline; Rome, they think, could not fall, so to say, vertically. It could not perish, as it was not made, in one day. The different altitudes occupied by that queen of nations at successive periods—from the Vatican throne, from the Sistine chapel—as the metropolis of Christendom, as the mother of the arts—were only as many steps by which she was descending from her old exalted station. They might break and retard her fall; they could give it majesty and composure; but it was no less inevitable; it is now no less thoroughly consummated. There never was anything like a second rise—there is now no possible resurrection."

"For these men, also, Rome is Italy. They know nothing of the country, save only as an appendage to the great metropolis; a passive and not very strenuous auxiliary to Roman greatness. Italy was one with

Rome so long only as that city was identic with the world. Except as the first province of the empire, no one ever heard of Italy as having an existence of its own. It never exhibited any unity of either action or purpose; it never originated anything, save only disorganizing Guelphism. Strong symptoms of vitality,—the rebound, as it were, of old Roman energy,—developed themselves in medieval republicanism here and there, at Florence especially, and at Venice; but never a tendency to cohesion and harmony: anything like Italian nationality never was in the nature of things; hence the cutting conclusion—it never can be.

"So many different ways there are of reading history!

"Unquestionably Italy has long been unconscious of its own being; is so still to an incredible extent. Hardly a deep, intuitive poet, like Dante, in the fourteenth century—hardly a keen, precocious thinker, like Machiavelli in the sixteenth, could be found, to whom this word 'Italy' conveyed any clear, definite meaning. Even at the present day, nineteen out of twenty among the living Italians are ignorant of their own appellation, and use it with hardly any discrimination or precision.

"Still the idea exists—no matter wherefrom sprung, no matter how far spread—the idea that there is an Italy, entitled to the enjoyment of a united, independent existence, destined to a mission of its own, to a share in the common destinies of the human race. Scarcely any one of the men of the present generation but can bear witness to the rapid growth and development of that redeeming idea.

"There may, indeed, be something terribly true in the assertion of those who reject as improbable all that is simply unprecedented. The moral world may be subject to laws as uniform and irreproachable as the material. As we are not likely ever to see the sun rising from the west, so may the Jews never again be gathered round the Temple of Jerusalem, so may never the Italians live to realize that fond dream first attributed to Julius II., and see the last of the 'barbarians' out of the country.

"That fond dream, however, that idea of nationality, with all its vagueness—to be or not to be realized to all eternity—has, however, become universal, uppermost, clearly inextinguishable.

"It were idle, perhaps, to attempt to trace that idea to its first recondite sources. It was not merely such stern and exalted intellects as Dante's and Alfieri's, that the thought of their country's humiliation inspired with their sublime and touching disdain of the world; it was not only such deep and teming brains as Machiavelli or Lorenzo de' Medici, that fretted and raged against a coincidence of fatal circumstances, against an aggravation of evils which no human foresight could anticipate, no human endeavour avert.

"Italian patriotism, such as it is now, with many a mere matter of instinct, made up of vain repining and vague longing, always harboured in the heart of the great and good—always was the test of loftiness and gentleness in that weary Italian land.

"Even such amiable triflers as Ariosto or Berni never happen in the midst of their frolicsome narratives to stumble, as it were, on that sacred subject—the name of Italy never comes to their lips—without at once sobering them. The vein of irresistible mirth suffers sudden intermission, and the gladsoome notes sink into a long plaintive strain of 'Italia! Italia!'—a strain of woe familiar to Italian ears since the days of Petrarch.

"But with the poets and thinkers of former ages, the sorrows of Italy were, in a great measure, mere prophetic abstraction. The most far-sighted could hardly be aware of the real extent of the evil. They hardly knew what to dread or wish. Their mournful strain arose not so much from a sense of present dejection, as from a foreboding of sorrows to come. There was a dirge for dying, not for dead Italy.

"When Julius II. first dreamt of preaching a crusade against the 'barbarians,' these were still, so to say, strangers in the land. The fiery odes of Petrarch, and the good lances of Alberico di Barbiano, of Braccio and Sforza, had driven them beyond the Alps with ignominy nearly two hundred years before. They had now, it is true, once more come to the charge;—once more they had poured in from west, and south, and north, by land and sea. They had startled Italy by their headlong fury, by their wanton ferocity. Italy had been taken by surprise. She was stunned, not overthrown. She had favoured their onset by unnatural feuds and dissensions. But for the rest, her strength, they fancied, was still unbroken. She had only to lift up her hand—so it were only with one heart and mind—and the invading hordes would still be crushed.

"Alas! when did Italy ever act with one mind and heart? The proud Julius II. died of impotent rage. The Italians took part, some with France, some with Spain, till, at last, all Italy laid her arms at the feet of the fortunate Austrian, in 1530.

"All the interval between Julius II. and Pius VI., between Charles V. and Napoleon, was for that country a long agony. Italy was dying, dying by inches, dying unconsciously. The chill of death was at the heart; but by an unnatural anomaly from the wonted course of nature, symptoms of vitality were still discernible at the extremities. Milan and Naples were lost; but Venice and Genoa still stood magnanimous wrecks of medieval Italian fortune; and Rome, papal Rome, still preserved some of its old prestige, the vain shadow of spiritual sovereignty.

"Moreover—and that was yet a third style of supremacy—men still looked up to Italian genius; for political annihilation had not yet brought it with mental prostration and degeneracy.

"These circumstances contributed to keep up the sad illusion of an Italian existence. The foreign ruler was permanently settled in Lombardy, the centre of Italian life in modern times; he lorded it over both Sicilies; and from these his head-quarters, his nod was law at Florence and Rome. He kept the remaining states in continual

alarm by open threats, by perfidious intrigues; and these had no defence against him besides the most servile, pusillanimous policy.

"All this for nearly three centuries. At the breaking out of the French Revolution in 1789, the death blow was scarcely needed. Napoleon, in 1797, or his conquerors in 1814, blotted out Venice and Genoa, the last states of genuine Italian growth: 1820 and 1831 stripped even Naples, Piedmont, and Rome,—those foreign structures of the Holy Alliance on Italian ground,—of their nominal self-existence, by throwing them helplessly, for very life, on Austrian protection. From the Alps to the sea, the Austrian made himself at home. Where he was not to-day, he might be expected to-morrow. All the princes still bearing the name of 'Independent' were only the first of his vassals. Compelled by him, even when not prompted by natural inclination to arbitrary measures, they engaged in a perpetual struggle with their subjects; thus putting themselves at the mercy of an overbearing ally, who used them as blind instruments of his anti-national policy. Their weakness and servility abroad were only commensurate with their arrogance at home. An Austrian Minister at Turin or Florence, an English Admiral or American Commodore at Naples, were more than sufficient to bully an Italian potentate into abject submission; and this not merely from the immense disproportion between the contending parties, as from an intimate misgiving in the heart of those Tuscan, Sardinian, or Sicilian despots, that any attack from without would be the infallible signal for a general commotion within, that hardly one of their subjects—hardly one of their very minions—but would be sure to turn against them, would loudly exult at least, if he did not actually aid, in their humiliation and defeat.

"Every one of those Italian states presented the melancholy spectacle of a 'house divided against itself,' and it was especially this deep-rooted animosity between the Government and the people that made Italy Austrian throughout. It was a state of things to make any patriot wish for an actual annexation of those mere Austrian dependencies into the Austrian monarchy. The Roman, Neapolitan, or Sardinian Governments were, in fact, Austrian 'with a vengeance.'

To what extent of utter helplessness the princes of Italy had fallen, they knew not themselves,—the Holy Alliance had no adequate idea. The experience of the last thirty years has at last made it clear to the world.

"This universal conviction that all was lost—that the brightest Italian diadem was merely the badge of Austrian lieutenancy, gave Italian patriotism some scope and consistency. Nationality was raised into a prominent idea.

"It was by her foreign oppressor himself that Italy had been made aware of the enormity and irreparability of her loss, aware of the doom that awaited her, and of the necessity of a combined effort to escape it. The Italians had come to this at last, that they must all be crushed utterly, or must assert their rights to a united existence.

"After all the efforts of 1848-49, the question still presents the same formidable, inevitable alternative.

"All revolutionary attempts from 1820 to 1848, the demands for a French charter or a Spanish constitution set up at Naples or in Piedmont in 1820-1, the attacks upon priestly government in Romagna ten years later, were absolutely nothing but preliminary steps by patriots who did not consider themselves sufficiently strong to take up the national contest.

"During these last thirty years, the Italians had only been feeling their way. They cared very little, and understood even less, about the representative forms of Transalpine freedom. The thorn in their side was plainly the foreigner. They tried him by indirect attacks, by a feint upon the Bourbon, or the Pope, at Naples, at Rome, at Turin. Before they were fairly on their guards, down came upon them; and this ubiquity of the Austrian, this promptness and decision of his movements, this omnipresence and omnipotence, ought, if anything, to have, as it actually had, the effect of simplifying the question and identifying Italian interests."

CHARACTER OF PIO NONO.

"The world has by this time come to a sufficiently clear understanding respecting the character of this unfortunate priest, and has set a right value upon the amnesty and other humane and would-be liberal measures which signified his accession. Those measures were slow and insufficient, in many cases specious and nugatory. The reluctant hand of the timid, craven, bigoted priest was visible through the concessions of the well meaning, perhaps, but weak and vain, irresolute prince. Inadequate as they were, and out of keeping with the spirit of the age, Pius' reforms were further frustrated by the bad faith and iniquity of their executors; utterly powerless to redeem the country from deep-rooted, all-pervading abuse. They were, above all, circumscribed within the narrow limits of the Pope's own pusillanimous mind, who had from the very outset pledged himself to the maintenance of all the privileges and immunities of the clergy, and who could not see how the spirit of the age would soon put to a severe test the determination he professed to have taken, to resist all innovation, however harmless in itself, which might be deemed incompatible with the principle of a sovereign hierarchy.

"From the beginning there was mutual bad faith and wilful deception between Pius and Italy. The Pope, 'short-sighted and self-conceited,' flattered himself that he could make Italian patriotism a prop to the Church. The patriots, hardly less blind, fancied that they could use the Pope as a tool to be broken on the first opportunity. We do not, indeed, think that many entertained the full intention expressed by a Venetian old reprobate to Macfarlane of 'cutting off the old fool's head'; but most Italians were too true to Alfieri's teaching, not to be aware that it was of the most vital importance for Italy that the 'high priest should ultimately be sent back to the fisherman's net.'

"The Italian movement, in short, had already far proceeded and could have reached its end without the friendly help of a pope; may, was sure to thrive best under the frowns of any man that had trod in the footsteps of Gregory; but since Pius had given, or was supposed to have given, hints of a better disposition, it was natural that a movement that had already dragged Charles Albert and Leopold of Tuscany along with it, should include even the Roman pontiff in its temporary and conditional adoption. It was certainly not unnatural, though questionable both as to honesty and expediency, that the Italians, beset as they were with towering difficulties, should find their advantage in flattering the Pope's intense, imbecile vanity; that they should lead him on by stunning applause; that out of a zealous priest and clement sovereign—the utmost extent of his ambition—they should endeavour to represent him as an arch-reformer and agitator. It was natural for Gioberti—the precursor of this new Messiah—whose prophecies about the plenitude of the times to be brought about by an Italian league, or Guelphish bond, with the successor of Alexander III. at its head—such as announced in his 'Primate' only three years before—received such a signal confirmation by the phenomenon of a liberal pope; that he should so far forget all man's dignity as to tell the Italians that if they worshipped Pius IX. as an immortal being, and offered sacrifices to him as to a god, they would commit only a venial sin; that the Pope was the real author of that wondrous movement that was then convulsing all Europe; that he was the Redeemer, the Creator of Italy. (We blush to confess that such is too often the language of Italian adulation, and are sorry that it ever should have come from one of the leaders of public opinion, no matter how good and great the purpose to which it was made subservient.)

"But, truly, it would have been difficult to conceive to what extent the well-assumed enthusiasm of the wily Italians for their new pope had imposed upon the whole world—Protestant no less than Catholic, hostile no less than friendly. The conceit of a reformer on the Vatican throne had something in it so novel and strange as to prove irresistible to the natural marvellousness of mankind! They 'believed because it was incredible.' It would be amusing at the present day, were the sequel not too melancholy, to inquire upon what ground rested the charge laid upon the Popedom, amongst others, by that deep Lord Brougham, of its 'being the origin of all the European convulsions.' In Italy, at least Pius IX. originated nothing. With all his silly vanity and imbecility, we do not think that the poor Pope could justly be charged with inconsistency, had he always been allowed to speak and act as he actually intended. The beginning and end of his offence was, simply, that amnesty of the 17th of July, which he suffered his people to clamour for more than month; which, imperfect and conditional as it was at first, was matter of sheer necessity, and which, we are informed, Pius only granted, after long solicitations, to a priest, by name Graziani, his former tutor, 'whose death was a loss not to his patron merely, but to Rome and Italy.' That amnesty had, nevertheless, the effect of placing him in the hands of the pardoned,—that is, of the liberal party. His lips were scarcely opened to utter the first word of forgiveness when the Italian movement—that movement, as we have seen, based on universal amnesty and reconciliation—took hold of him. It was, in fact, the Pope himself, or the Papacy, that was amnestied. He was whirled along—unconscious—reluctant. It is fearful to think to what extent he was, from his very accession, mystified and practised upon. Italy never received any boon from him that was not actually wrested from him. The men whose office it was to watch him, were bewildered by the perpetual instability of his purposes. Rome, that headquarters of intrigue, never presented a more insoluble riddle to the looker-on. In more than one instance, decrees and measures, most strenuously opposed by the Pope, were, nevertheless, issued and carried through, as if bearing the sanction of his seal and signature. There were adroit men about him, who did not scruple to personify him—wilfully to misinterpret or falsify his words. Filippo de' Boni, a violent republican and foe to the Pope, has given a circumstantial account of poor Pius's backslidings; which, notwithstanding a considerable amount of virulence, often bears the mark of irrefragable truth. The Pope's mind, in more than one instance, broke through the magic ring of intrigue and falsehood that environed him; and then his admonition to the Consulta on the opening of its sessions on the 15th of November, 1847, 'that they should not fancy themselves the embryo of a future legislation;' his wrath at some wag from the crowd shouting out, 'Long live the constitutional Pope,' and similar occurrences, without number, gave sufficient intimation of the Pope's consciousness of having been dragged too far, and of his determination to go no farther.

"Those designing persons, who stood between him and his expectant people, endeavoured for a length of time to lay all the blame of the Pope's wavering to the baneful influence of the Jesuits, and cried out loudly for their suppression. The works of Gioberti had lately aroused the dormant, though inextinguishable, hatred of the Italian people for that devoted community. Their hour had struck throughout the country. Turin was impatient to turn them out; Piacenza, Genoa, laid a rough hand upon them; Naples, itself was compelled to give them up. The Pope alone pertinaciously refused to the last to part with the obnoxious order."

We closed the volume with regret, and our last word shall be the expression of a hope that Mariotti will tell us in the same masterly style the story of Italy in 1849, and celebrate in worthy accents of generous admiration the deeds and fortunes of the modern Rienzi!

THE SIEGE OF DAMASCUS.

The Siege of Damascus; a Historical Romance. By James Nisbett. In 3 vols.

John Chapman.

For some time past Mr. John Chapman has shown a disposition to enlarge the province of his publishing, and—without relinquishing that specialty of bold philosophical books for which he has gained a reputation—to include works of more general literature, not excepting even novels. He has here given us a three volume romance, and what is more to the purpose, a romance of very unusual power, such as must arrest attention by its qualities as a work of fiction, and help the good cause of liberty of thought.

Many novel readers will be scared away by its uncompromising hostility to all dogmatic creeds and the vehemence of its tone with respect to priests of all colours; but those minds that can let the galled jade wince while their withers are unwrung will be greatly interested by the pictures of fanaticism, superstition, cruelty, and mummery presented by these contrasted religions, Christian Magian and Mussulman. The only fault we find with the book in this respect is that the author is too merciless. He does not give fanaticism sufficient credit for lofty motives. He does not seem to believe (though he makes an admission to the contrary now and then) that the religious persecutions and mummuries he exposes had any other source than the vilest motives of personal agrandissement. In a word, he is intolerant of priests and judges them too harshly. Nevertheless it cannot be denied that the strong animus of the book gives it great vigour and stirring interest.

The story of Jonas and Eudocia, upon which the romance is founded, is told by Ockley in his delightful *History of the Saracens* (which Mr. Bohn has recently placed within our reach), and the author uses it as a thread to connect a variety of adventures and scenes illustrative of the life and creeds of that remote but interesting epoch. The pomp and splendour of romance is prodigally set forth in these pages. We see the enervated luxurious Greeks and Romans in the city of Damascus contrasted with the hardy, warlike, enthusiastic, fanatical Arabs—we assist at the spectacles of Religious Pomp when Christianity had sunk into idolatry and unbelief—we are carried across the desert and made to understand its perils—we are led into the tumult of sieges—and curiosity is kept alive by the cross-purposes that baffle love—while the author acting as Chorus keeps up a running fire of sarcasm, or polemic heat, so that attention never flags. There is no lack of incident (not always of the newest!) nor of pictures; and the characters are broadly sketched in the approved style of romance personages.

Here are two scenes of

LIFE IN DAMASCUS.

"Beside a handsome villa, situated on the brow of a gentle slope, and in one of those charming gardens which twelve centuries ago (as from time immemorial to the present day) surrounded the city of Damascus, there was gathered, when our story opens, a numerous company of gay and noble young men. On the closely-mown grass were placed luxurious couches and cushions of the richest stuff, upon which some of the youths indolently lay or half reclined; while others strolled carelessly about among flowers and fragrant bushes, and under magnificently spreading trees. Close by was a clear rivulet, which seemed rather to dance than merely flow through a picturesque rocky channel. The sparkling stream gave additional freshness to the verdure. The gentle harmony of a hundred little cascades, which sometimes died away or swelled again as a light breeze directed the sound towards the company, easily supplied the imagination with a natural chorus to their varying thoughts.

"Immediately below the rising ground lay a fertile and beautiful country. It was one grand and glorious garden, if it could not better be termed a forest (with occasional glades) from the height and denseness of the vegetation. It extended many miles, further, indeed, than the eye could discover, till it reached the great Syrian desert. Over the foreground of the scene were profusely scattered light open pavilions, daintily painted and decorated, to which the pleasure-loving citizens would often repair to enjoy the beauty of the landscape. Swelling brooks and fountains, the natural enchantment-workers of hot countries, covered fields, orchards, and groves with tropical luxuriance. Innumerable fruit and timber trees of every valuable kind there grew, almost without cultivation. Flowers, the most perfect in shape and lovely in hue, everywhere scented the air with delicious odours. There, it was said, the meadows were greener, the countless streams purer and sweeter,—the flowers, plants, and trees larger and finer, than in any other portion of the earth. The air, too, was softer, clearer, and more exhilarating; and the lights of heaven—the moon and stars, the very sun itself, shone with a milder radiance. In short, it was believed by the happy natives, and always admitted by travellers from every country, that whatever could best please the senses, and refresh tired nature in a sultry climate, was to be found in perfection on the renowned plain of Damascus.

"At a short distance from the spot where the party

reposed, and towards the south and east, rose the lofty walls of the city; behind which towered innumerable pinnacles, brazen or gilded domes, and battlements, intermingled with the tops of cypresses, and other tall trees. On the other side of the landscape were numerous romantic and diversified valleys. To form these, green hills were picturesquely heaped together, which gradually rose above each other till they terminated at many miles' distance in the barren and rocky ridges of Anti-Lebanon and the snow-crowned Mount Hermon.

"Such a scene, beneath an unclouded sky, might well have been judged the nearest resemblance left on earth to the first Paradise—if, indeed, as many supposed, it were not that very Paradise itself. Pison, Gihon, Hiddekel, and Euphrates, the four famous rivers which watered the garden of Eden, found fit representatives in the branches of the Barady. At the time of our tale tradition pointed out (as, indeed, it still does) a place in the immediate vicinity, where Cain was said to have got 'very wroth' with his brother Abel and slew him. Many other legends of the most ancient times localized in and around Damascus the first recorded events in Scripture.

"The season was summer, and the time evening. The youths who so gaily drank the coolest of delicious wines, and over them doubly enjoyed the sweetness of nature among sprightly comrades, were Greeks from the neighbouring city. They had been invited to sup with Alexis, the gayest and most dissipated, and, though still quite young, one of the richest men in all the province. After a splendid banquet within doors, the company had now retired to the fresh and cool lawn to converse at ease, and enjoy in the open balmy air the sweetest fruits and wines with the greater zest.

"Not far from the party, but concealed from sight by intervening shrubs, was a band of skillful musicians, who played and sang such bacchanalian and epicurean pieces as suited the temper of the hour. Female attendants, distinguished by great beauty and grace, moved beside and among the guests. Occasionally, these females danced to the music in a brisk and fantastic manner; or, in slower, more graceful, and expressive movements, realized what has been prettily termed the poetry of motion. At times, also, uniting in a general burst of exquisite harmony, they would repeat the burden of the musicians' song.

"The exceeding loveliness of these women was made more alluring by a thin and artful apology for dress, which fires the heart more by the imagination of what is heaving beneath than the actual sight of naked charms. But to all voluptuous races the contemplation of graceful female figures is as common and requisite as that of any other beautiful object in nature or art; and while it tends to refine the taste, does not necessarily destroy the personal purity of the spectator, as the ascetic and frigid might suppose."

Augustine:—

"A magnificent fountain—the generous gift, in the old Pagan times, of a wealthy citizen—was not far from the minstrels. The proportions were vast, and the architecture highly decorated. In a pool at the bottom of the structure lazily reposed the huge stony forms of sea and river monsters, vomiting great volumes of the clearest water into numerous basins above. Emerging from these last receptacles were the bronze statues of heathen gods and goddesses, the mythological patrons of some well-known stream. These figures, as if in playful defiance, threw torrents across upon each other, in arched and sparkling sheets. Resting lightly on the shoulders of these deities, fluttered gilded images of Oreades and other nymphs who presided over winds and mountaintops, and who, in smaller shell-formed basins, which they clasped in their outstretched hands, intercepted the threatening floods of the generous rivals beneath, and, seeming to blow them lightly away, scattered everywhere around a countless multitude of minute jets that shone, in the sunlight, as chains of diamonds.

"Around this fountain were numerous groups of people. Some came to draw water from the constantly gushing sluices at the base, and others to gossip and pleasantly while away the idle hours. In the midst of a busy market, it became the natural place for discussion by the citizens on public affairs and the scandal of the town. Lofty and thickly-spreading trees grew near, which, by their sweet verdure and shade, refreshed the bystanders. Beneath and among the trees were placed the portable ovens of some of those pastrycooks who had been long famous for their exquisitely spiced and flavoured dishes, which were exported to all parts of the eastern world. There were also numerous stalls of dealers in wine, and in ice drinks and various sweet fluid preparations. Gardeners and fruit-sellers were likewise there, whose baskets were heaped with melons, oranges, grapes, and every other luxurious fruit that could be desired or imagined in a hot country. Behind all these, on a slight rising ground, rose the red granite columns and carved walls of the principal church in Damascus, which was dedicated to Saint John the Baptist. Other sides of the market-place were principally occupied with various magnificent public buildings. At one corner appeared a portion of the palace of Thomas, the gardens of which extended backwards a considerable distance.

"It was altogether a charming picture, and one which the wanderer from northern climates would fondly bid his memory treasure up.

"The minstrels had conversed for some time, apparently unnoticed by the groups who stood around the fountain. But, as occasionally the accents of a foreign language caught the hearing of the people, the looks and discourse of the latter began to be directed towards the pair. Recent events had excited the popular attention to strangers; and now, while those around had been eagerly discussing the condition of public matters, they simultaneously moved a few steps near the minstrels. It was then that the youth had remarked the circumstance to his father, and began to play a soft prelude to one of his usual songs.

"Some young children were amusing themselves beside the spot. When they heard the first notes they ceased their sport, and drew nearer the musicians. One little laughing boy ventured to sit on the ground beside the elder minstrel, and gradually nestled himself so close that his head rested on the lap of the old man. Children instinctively discover those who love the young."

"As Azib continued to play, the child, tired and heated with exercise, murmured, as he looked innocently in the old man's face, 'What will give me some of those delicious fruits? I wish I had some, for I am very thirsty—and they are so good!'

"Here, my little fellow," said the minstrel fondly, "take this money. I will give you and your companions what you desire. Go to any stall you please, and select the largest bunches, or the sweetest dish, or fruits that you like best. Then come back to show me your purchases, and hear some music."

"Up started the delighted urchins, and noisily hurried away to expend the welcome gratuity. Azib had ceased to play when his father spoke, and now expressed his joy at the pleasant scene.

"Ah, father, is not this like home? How pleased those merry faces look! See! the darlings already return, loaded with the spoils of orchards and gardens."

"As Azib said this, the children hastened to the minstrels, and one after another offered and pressed portions of their fruits upon them, and would not be denied. If to humour one teasing child they accepted some trifling tribute of his gratitude, another would pleasantly insist on the same honour being done himself. At last, however, these affectionate contentions were ended, and the whole of the children clustered about the persons of the musicians."

As a contrast to these pictures read this:—

ALONE IN THE DESERT.

"When Jonas at length raised his head, the monk was scarcely visible—only a dim speck in the remote horizon. The sun was toiling in his burning course. The heavens were growing yellow and inflamed. The sands reflected the scorching heat. All around was dry, withered, and dead. Jonas rose, and went to some neighbouring rocks that had pierced the sands. He sought everything and everywhere for a change, and some relief to the oppressive sultriness. The naked rocks felt like heated metal to his touch: he could not stay there. With his sword he loosed the baked soil, and with his hands dug a hole in the earth. He crouched down there, and then heaped the loose sand on his person, for protection against the direct rays of the sun. The position was no better: he felt as if in a bath, where the water was getting hotter every instant to boil him alive.

"A rustling in the air attracted his attention. He looked around, and saw some vultures lazily flapping their wings beside the dying horse. They had scented death a hundred miles off, and were first at the feast; or, perhaps, their telescopic eye, raised some thousand feet above the plains of the Haouran, where they greedily watched the labours of Moslem and Christian for their benefit, had suddenly marked the banquet spread for them in the desert. The dismal sight troubled the conscience of Jonas. He rose and went to the animal, which had been his favourite steed. The horse was not yet dead, but writhed under the horrid effects of the poison which the monk had administered. Jonas could not look on the creature's dying throes. With his sword he put an end to them; and thus he found himself surely doomed. The ship was wrecked that could alone bear him from the rock on which he stood in this miserable ocean of sand: he had burnt the last plank.

"The birds of prey rejoiced in their unclean feast. Before the dull eyes of the horse had time to glaze, the foul beaks of the vultures had torn them from their sockets. Jonas once attempted to drive the creatures away; but it was needless trouble. They scarcely moved before his menaces. His strength was unequal to the task of covering his carcass with stones and sand. What was the use! If he deprived the vultures of their choice dish by day, the hyena and the jackal would have the more by night. Could their ravenous scents be escaped, or their hunger deceived by a thin covering of earth? Jonas, therefore, left the spot, and the vultures returned.

"Day dragged heavily on. The fierce sun poured down floods of aerial heat; the atmosphere was suffocating. A dead calm reigned. There was no sound to be heard, no object to be seen moving in all the wide expanse. Nothing broke the dreary monotony of the scene. Except a few withered tufts of low coarse grass which studded the ground every two or three yards, it was everywhere sand, sand; sometimes rock slightly protruding, then sand again, but all equally arid and glowing. Of water, or moisture, there was not a drop. The horizon seemed to smoke with the fires of a thousand volcanoes; a lurid hue overspread the heavens. Jonas grew very faint. The pangs of his long abstinence were scarcely忍耐able. He moved restlessly about, not caring in what direction he went. Death was on every side. In the end, he only found himself where he had been in the morning. In vain he strained vision to detect some distant speck that might bring relief: no help was near. The faithful Zaba was ignorant of his danger, and, if not himself in trouble, was doubtless wandering far away in search of his master.

"At one time, Jonas happened to find himself on the top of a small eminence. He looked despairingly on every side. Then a sudden joy filled his heart. Could he believe his own eyes? There, just before him, lay a beautiful lake, in whose waters, smooth and glittering as burnished silver, were reflected some slight distant elevations, similar to the one on which he stood. O blessed sight!—how had it not been seen before? Jonas hurried to plunge himself in the calm, delicious element. Alas! it was enchantment all. There was really no lake—no water. Mysterious exhalations from the dissolving earth floated on, and hid the surface of the ground. To the spectator above, they seemed rivers and seas of paradise;

but when he ran forward and sought to drink,—O mockery! they were molten sands and airs from hell! Then Jonas recollects the mirage, and cursed his own stupidity. Yet the optical delusion still lasted during the middle hours of day. There—but now farther onwards, lay the same charming vision—the same bountiful lake! Avant, ye juggling fiends of the desert! Jonas was not to be betrayed a second time.

"Evening approached; and the sensitive ear of our hero detected the distant cries of wild beasts. They were rushing to the remains of the vultures' festival. He had in his heart wished that speedy death would relieve him of his tortures; but instinct warned him to fly before the fangs of those ferocious creatures. He wandered farther away till he reached a slight hollow, where grew a few nettles and briars, and among them a small group of prickly acacias. The sight gave him new vigour. There, he thought, water might be found. He madly tore up the withered plants by the roots in his search, but found not a drop. The acacia which he saw lived in sand and the hottest air. Their hardy shoots penetrated into minute crevices of the rock, and drew from thence the scantiest supply of moisture; or rather, their leaves imbibed it from the niggard dews of night, inappreciable by the senses of man. But those rocks and stunted trees yielded him no refreshment. The graceful foliage of the acacia, and the brilliant hue of its blossoms, mocked at his despair. They could bloom and flourish where proud man died.

"The sun sunk, not so much amid flames as in the steady glow of a furnace; and the crook-backed moon—white, clear, cold, and stern in appearance, made the scorched Jonas shiver as in an ague. Hot fits succeeded the cold. That was a fearful night. The yells of wild beasts resounded from a distance. A fever was in his veins; a burning fire in his brain. When he attempted to speak, a short, hoarse bark was all the sound he could produce. His throat was parched; the saliva he spat was scanty, frothy, and viscid. His whole skin was burning, dry, and inflamed. He was slowly withering and reducing to a mummy. The energy of a restless feebleness moved him hither and thither, without an object, without a hope. The scenes of his past life rose in fearful vividness before him. The smoke and struggles of Antioch—his early education—Zaba, and their common generous saviour—the bloody wars in Persia—the death of more than parent there—the virtues and heroism of the deceased Jonas—his own wild wishes, hopes, and fears, his pleasures, and social companions in Damascus—the beloved Eudocia, tender and confiding—Heracles, imperious and revengeful, glorying in his sufferings—the generous Thomas—the dreadful monk—and the shadows of a thousand other memorable persons and events, all flitted, sadly or triumphantly, before the sickened, writhing Jonas. And this was to be the end of all his proud thoughts, his godlike sense of enjoyment, his hopes of a brilliant future! He was to die, like a dog, unheeded and alone! His flesh was to fill the maws of ravenous creatures; his bones to bleach in the fierce sun! The thoughts were madness, but they recurred again and again.

"Night passed, and again the diligent fiery ball rolled high up in the eastern sky. Another day of oven-heat! The air was a yellow burning vapour, sulphurous and pestilential.

"Jonas had now grown very weak. His eyes were inflamed by the excessive glare, the heat and thirst: he could but dimly see the surrounding rocks. His skin was hot and dry: the fluids of the body were gradually evaporating. His throat was contracted, and he felt himself being slowly choked. He tried to feel his pulse, but it long escaped his feeble though highly sensitive fingers. When at last he fancied that he could detect the vital movement, it was small and rapid, more like a nervous quivering than the full steady beat of natural pulsation. Jonas felt that the hand of death was upon him. Despair had succeeded to anxiety, and lethargy to restlessness. He now awaited his time, not perhaps in clearness of mind and philosophic composure, but in constitutional sullenness and obtuseness to farther sensation.

"His mind occasionally wandered, and then would he softly mutter the ravings of an inextinguishable fancy. Misshapen things, and other things of beauty and life, of love and joy, fluttered for an instant before him. Eudocia—an angel of delight, hovered near: she bore a bowl of water in her hands, and offered him drink. He greedily seized the dish and put it to his lips; but before he could taste, a rapacious bird had waved his glossy wings, and a hot current of air instantly dried up the liquid. The branches of the acacia drooped, and moaned the pitiful drought; and a shower of its perishing leaves, mingled with blossoms, fell upon the dying man. With a shriek, the beauteous vision of his love disappeared. In her stead came croaking, hissing, creeping slimy things, that crawled upon and defiled his body. Vultures, with the gowns and cowls of monks, and talons like sandalled feet, sat motionless around, and waited patiently for the dainty meal. Their eyes, which sometimes shone green and ghastly like emeralds, and anon glowed fierily as carbuncles, never winked or wandered from his own, but pierced deep into the giddy brain.

"After a time, and when he had long lain as if dead, his still acute hearing marked the whirring sweep of the loathsome, dreadful creatures, as they whirled a short flight before beginning the glorious feast. He opened his swelled eyelids, and dimly saw above him a forest of scraggy naked heads, besmeared with blood and fat, having strong gaping beaks and eyes like noon-day suns. With a feeble effort he waved his hands, and the filthy forms disappeared, uttering short angry screams, and leaving fetid odours behind.

"Then he would partially recover from his delirium, to find himself growing weaker and less conscious of sensible objects.

"Sometimes his maddened fancy would summon up the beautiful plains of Damascus, or paint the sublime scenes of Hieromon or Lebanon. Rivers—rivers of de-

licious life-giving water would then flow, and fountains sparkle before his longing sick desire. But he was another Tantalus; he could not taste. Those lavish snows and ice-fields of the mountain—those floods and sweet streams of the plain, which refreshed and glorified the happy land, were not for him. He saw magnificent groves, through which gleamed long green alleys, starry with flowers. The balmy air—but balmy only to his imagination, rang with the cheerful song of birds—it was loaded with aromatic scents. But soon a puff of hot vapour, set in motion by a restless vulture, swept over the beauteous picture, and turned all again into the frightful desert."

C. KNIGHT'S NATIONAL SHAKSPEARE.

The Comedies, Histories, Tragedies, and Poems of William Shakspeare. Edited by Charles Knight. (The National Edition.) Vol. 1. Comedies. Charles Knight.

"SHAKSPEARE considered from the industrial point of view" would not be an unfruitful topic for an essay. Let some of the Manchester School essay it. If "employment" be really the great ideal of life, how magnificently has Shakespeare realized it! Think of the crowds to whom he has given bread (with no inconsiderable spread of butter)—the actors, editors, printers, papermakers, booksellers, and critics. Calculate what Charles Knight alone has done with "the swan"—how many subscribers, printers, papermakers, booksellers, &c., has he given employment to with his *Pictorial Shakspeare*, his *Cabinet Shakspeare*, his *Library Edition*, his *One volume Edition*, and now his new *National Edition*! What it is to have faith! Charles Knight's faith in Shakespeare is of indestructible energy; no sooner are the proof-sheets of one undertaking dry, than passing his hand across that kind and noble brow of his, he exclaims, "What next? What work not unbefitting men who strove with gods" remains for me to do? I see—another Shakespeare: the public demands another and a cheaper! Don't talk to me about the market already supplied—the market cannot be supplied! Every instant a new Shakespeare reader comes into the world! I see unborn possibilities of subscribers! I will at once bring out a new edition: it shall be even more perfect than the last: some word shall be altered, some comma restored; you may think the alteration trifling, but nothing is trifling that helps to remove the weather stains of Time upon that monument of an Immortal." So he resolves; he brings out a new edition; and the public justifies his faith by greedily clutching at the new work; for the public associates his name with that of Shakespeare as one whose love has been unbounded, whose labour has been dictated by love, and whose enterprise has given earnest of success.

The National Edition volume one stands before us. It is the last undertaking—as yet. We dare not predict that "another yet another" will not succeed it. Meanwhile, it is the last. It is handsome; printed boldly across the page; with liberal margins for the annotations of loving pencils: contains the best features of the Pictorial Edition; and presents itself as a truly serviceable volume for the library. The text—as usual with this editor—is founded upon that of the first folio; that which Hemmings and Condell published from (as they declare) Shakespeare's own MSS. We think that their preface brings the question to this issue: either they were impudent pretenders and their assertion about Shakespeare's papers is a lie, or else their text, making allowances for unavoidable typographical errors, must be the sole standard.

The present edition has a graceful dedication to Macready.

BOOKS ON OUR TABLE.

Monk; or, the Fall of the Republic and the Restoration of the Monarchy in England, 1660. By M. Guiot. Translated from the French by A. R. Scobie. (Bohn's Shilling Series.) H. G. Bohn.

A good translation of Guiot's excellent work, with the quotations verified, and the diplomatic correspondence added as an appendix (for the first time in English). An analytical index is also given, which will be useful. Lely's portrait of Monk is annexed.

Philip Augustus; or, the Brothers in Arms. By G. P. R. James. Sims and McIntyre. This is one of the very best books James has written—and, in spite of the dreary volumes he has so prodigiously thrown upon the market of late years, James has written some good romances: this is of them. It is printed in more legible character than usual with this series: indeed it is as agreeable a volume as one would wish to have.

Tales and Traditions of Hungary. By Francis and Theresa Pulasky. 3 vols. H. Colburn.

Poems. By J. de Jean. W. S. Orr and Co.

Catholicity, Spiritual and Intellectual; an Attempt of Indicating the Harmony of Faith and Knowledge. A Series of Discourses. By Thomas Wilson, M.A. J. Chapman.

Three Letters on Direct Legislation by the People; or, True Democracy. By M. Bittinghausen. J. Watson.

The Last War and Definitive Peace in Europe. By Victor Considerant. J. Watson.

The Arts.

OPENING OF THE OPERA.

If ever a critic had a busy week of it I am the man. First came the Opera, bursting forth with the sudden beauty of an arctic spring, which throws aside by one sublime effort the dreary mantle of winter and starts into life at once. Oh, what a sight! (the Opera, not the spring.) How the argent light shivered on the sating shoulders of the fairest women of Europe! how the brightest of eyes smiled their expectant joy! how fresh the bouquets! and how fresh the women looked! yes: even the "old familiar faces"—those faces that one wearis of in the course of the season, seeing them everywhere (and kissing them nowhere)—even they looked fresh, and young, and happy, and eager; and the old bucks eyed them with assassinating glances, and we young bucks forgot our languor and superiority to fall into honest raptures over their merciless charms. It was a pleasant sight.

The Opera opening promises a season of delight. Let the Pope "aggress"—let Lord John neither retire nor remain, but keep up the ideal of Whiggery by "avoiding extremes"—let Crystal Palaces be never so magnificent—the one consoling fact that the opera is once more open, is a fact of such significance that I feel I could become dithyrambic—but won't.

What was there on Saturday to gather that crowd? Why, first there was the Opera itself. It reopened its doors: that was something. Then it offered us Caroline Duprez—the daughter of that impassioned singer whose grandioso style of phrasing made one forget all defects—and all of us were curious to see what heritage of his genius he had left to his child. The opera was the hacknied *Lucia*, and with Calzolari as Edgardo! Calzolari! Yet in spite of that the crowd went, went to hear Caroline Duprez; and found a young girl—not more than eighteen—with the charm of youth and the defect of inexperience. But I will reserve criticism until she has played another character. She is young, has been well taught, has a great name to spur her on, and may bear it worthily.

I have said nothing of the ballet—the ballet, the glory and pride of this house!—but Carlotta was not in it, and all the elegance in the world will not compensate for the absence of her enchanting witching graces. But she is to appear to night! Not completely to sacrifice *L'Ile des Amours* to Carlotta, let me briefly say that it is an ingenious and graceful representation of life à la Watteau.

Another and a greater name drew me on Monday to

MRS. KEMBLE'S SHAKSPEARE READINGS at the St. James's Theatre. Such an intellectual delight! To those who really love Shakespeare, and have any feeling for what is highest in dramatic art, there can be no performance half so fascinating as these readings. By means of changes of voice, unforced yet marked, and sufficient gesticulation to explain the text, aided by the fine commentary of eye and brow, Mrs. Kemble brings before you the whole scene, enacts every part, and moves you as the play itself would move you. One great charm in this Readings, and one which gives them such superiority over performances, is that all the minor parts assume their true position, and produce the harmony which the poet designed. Every one knows the exquisite beauty of some of these minor parts, and knows also the merciless massacre of them on the stage. But in these Readings the dreadful misapprehension of meaning and distortion of verse which understrappers inflict upon us are banished, and even the slightest parts are carefully given.

With regard to her reading of the greater characters some difference of opinion will naturally exist, but no one will deny that her reading is thoughtful and striking. The versatility displayed in her rendering of the saucy child York and the smooth hypocrisy of Richard in their colloquy was greatly applauded. I never enjoyed Shakespeare so much, out of my own study. I have heard Tieck read Shakespeare, and Seydelmann, the great tragedian; but although the former is celebrated as the first of readers, and the latter was to my thinking one of the first of actors—although both of them read better than Mrs. Kemble in the strict sense of the word—yet for dramatic reading, that is to say, for giving you the effects of acting without the aids of the stage, I prefer Mrs. Kemble.

While I was listening to these readings, William Jerrold, the son of Douglas the Witty, was keeping the Lyceum in a roar with

COOL AS A CUCUMBER,

of which the *Times* says:—

"The cool gentleman, admirably represented by Mr. Charles Mathews, has picked up a cigar-case belonging to an old gentleman's son, and on the strength of this introduction enters the old gentleman's house, and makes himself perfectly at home. The son, who has been banished from his father's house to prevent a mésalliance, is treated by the intruder as a burglar when

he comes home again, but at last the impudent wight atones for his misdeeds by attempting a reconciliation between father and son. Nothing can be slighter than the structure of this farce, but Mr. Charles Mathews is well fitted, and the dialogue is exceedingly neat." The success is unequivocal."

I promised myself that I would go and laugh at this piece on Tuesday; but on that night

TARTUFE

was produced at the Haymarket, as an experiment in lieu of the coarse version which has so long held the stage under the title of *The Hypocrite*.

Unhappily for the world, Tartufe is as true now as he was in the days when Molière dissected him, and drew the loud enmity of the clergy upon his own head for the audacity. What, ridiculous Religion! scoff at things sacred! Not at all. I, Jean Baptiste Poquelin Molière, tell you unequivocally that my comedy does not touch upon Religion but upon Hypocrisy—surely you will not say the two are one? I flagellate Pretence, I tear the mask from Cant, I ridicule Vice, and you tell me I offend Religion! Why may I not ridicule the *pretence* of Piety? I have ridiculed Upstarts, Pedants, Fools, Marquises, Quacks—may I not ridicule Hypocrites? It was in vain Molière had every sound reason on his side, he would have been a lost man had not the King stood by him. The King had not then listened to Le Tellier; Madame de Maintenon had not made hypocrisy the court fashion; so that in spite of virulent pamphlets and an enraged clergy Tartufe was sustained, and France shook her sides at the imitable picture.

What a noble work it is! how full of curious and profound observation, relieved by gay and genial wit, set in an intrigue as admirable as it is clear and progressive in its development! There is no heartier comedy than Molière's: his indignation is never crabbed, always manly; his satire has no ranking poison in it. Quacks and pretenders of all kinds are his game, but his very scorn of them springs rather from love of what is noble than from malicious detection of what is ignoble. The result is that his writings have a perfectly agreeable effect. The laughter does one good. I noticed that on Tuesday. In spite of acting so deplorable that I ground my teeth in rage to see a work of art thus mangled, the substantial merit, truth, wisdom, heartiness of the comedy kept the audience in a pleased if not enthusiastic state of mind. They would leave the theatre merrier and wiser men after such a performance. They might "wonder," indeed, at the fuss made about Molière; they might ask if two centuries of admiration had been bestowed on a work not more "striking" than that. And truly, if Molière is to be judged by the interpretation given in the Haymarket, his renown must be a huge sham. Such acting! such manners! such dignity! such finesse! such a perception of the airy elegance of wit! such delivery of verse! Take Webster away, and not a good word is to be said for one of them—unless for Selby, in the trifling part of Loyal. The misrepresentations of Orgon and Madame Pernelle, perpetrated by Mr. Lambert and Mrs. Stanley, were disgraceful to a London theatre: no acting manager should have permitted such mistakes to pass in rehearsal. If he could not insist upon a nearer approach to the stupid piety and severe narrow-mindedness of the characters, he could at least have insisted that the unseemly turbulence of farce were forgotten for this occasion; and he could have assured Mr. Lambert that verse was *not* prose, and that "impudent viper" was not the pronunciation for a theatre which plays comedy. These two were the worst; but the others were all unsatisfactory. Mrs. Fitzwilliam—clever as she is—cannot touch the charming pertness and good sense of Dorine, and her mouth is so totally unused to verse, that many of the epigrams were unmanageable by her. Miss Reynolds has not the faintest idea of *les grandes manières* of Elmire. Miss Addison and Mr. Howe, as the lovers, spoiled that most charming scene of lovers' quarrel, by their want of nature: they were not pettishly wilful, provokingly misunderstanding each other, letting their irritation grow out of their own injustice—as lovers universally do, and as Molière has so wonderfully painted them here—but their quarrel was so ill represented that it seemed absurdly untrue. The whole performance was discreditable. It wanted truth, it wanted art, it wanted elegance. One little detail will give precision to my strictures. Scarcely one of the performers called Tartufe anything but *Tartuffe*, and as they pronounced it so they played it—they Tarroffed!

I make an exception for Webster. He alone played like a comedian. He had carefully studied his part, he crept into it, and spoke through it. Quiet and cat-like in his velvet motions and demureness, there was an intensity of sensual glare in his eye and a swelling appetite in his lip, which unmistakably betrayed the grossness over which sanctity was thrown as a veil. Nothing could be finer than his delineation of Tartufe under this aspect; but I missed the democratic element at the close. However, had it not been for his acting I would not have sat the piece out, for to see Molière on his first introduction maltreated in that reckless style was by no means agreeable.

Tuesday thus disposed of, Wednesday drew me to

MR. J. W. WALLACK,

who by his *Hamlet* has, in my eyes, settled his claims, for the present at least. In *Othello* and *Macbeth* he had an indulgent press to aid him. I was unwilling to disturb any chance of success he might have by the severity of conscientious criticism, and was therefore silent. It is now time to speak plainly. As yet he does not rise above mediocrity. With many advantages—with a handsome person, good voice, and knowledge of stage traditions, he has a laudable ambition to be original, which displays itself in a variety of new readings more remarkable as novelties than as ingenious interpretations. But although a respectable actor, and one who in the present state of the drama may assume a tolerable position, he has not hitherto given any of those indications of genius which Shakespeare demands. As I am in a minority on this point, at least as regards my critical *confères*—I hope it will not be attributed to harshness if I dwell upon the defects of the young actor: there is no more injurious kindness than flattery.

In the first place I wish Mr. Wallack would bestow less thought upon new readings, and give more attention to the simple delivery of his text, which he constantly utters in a style as mechanical as it is incorrect. What I mean is that he does not read sensibly. He does not distribute his emphasis like a man who feels the whole meaning of the words; and his intonation is often quite at variance with the meaning. To give but one example,—he whines, almost ludicrously, passages that are not in the slightest degree pathetic, e.g., when Hamlet sets at nought the remonstrances of his friends against following the Ghost, exclaiming, "Why, what should be the fear?" will it be believed that Mr. Wallack uttered this in the whining tone in which he weeps for his murdered father? Again, when Horatio says that he has a truant disposition, and Hamlet replies, "I would not have your enemy say so," Mr. Wallack uttered it with a savage sternness—down in the growling tragedy of his voice—which would have befitted his reply to the king. I might fill a column with examples; any one who attends to his declamation will see that the fault is constant.

So much for mere delivery of *verse*, the *principium et fons* of acting. With regard to the expression of emotion he has yet almost everything to learn. He can storm, but he cannot suffer. There is no *play* of emotion—no flux and reflux of passion—pictured in his tones, gestures, or looks. He has three or four set looks, set tones, and set gestures, which do duty for all. I do not reproach him for his imitations of Macready's ungainly attitudes, nor for the general want of grace in his deportment; but I do reproach him for mistaking loud breathing and snorting for the representation of passion, and for the agony of a storm-tost soul.

With these fundamental objections against his style, I may be excused if I decline discussing the higher questions of his conception of the parts he has played. The one good thing to be said of him is that he *has* a conception. He does think for himself, and that gives some hope for his ultimate success. But before he can play Shakespeare as we desire it he must undergo great transformations. Why does he not rather throw himself into a new part? What insanity of ambition is it forces all the actors to cope with Shakespeare's most difficult parts, when the public will see them willingly in new plays? Macready was the only actor people cared to see in Shakespeare's tragedies, and him they preferred in pieces not by Shakespeare!

VIVIAN.

Progress of the People.

LETTERS TO CHARTISTS.

VII. HINTS ON THE CONVENTION OF NEXT WEEK.

Next week the "Convention" meets in London at the Pantheon-rooms, and let all concerned, as far as possible, take care that it meets to some purpose. Some previous "Conventions" have been little better than condemnations. Considering the disorganized state of the Chartist sections, it would, perhaps, be more befitting to use the less pretending designation, and call the proposed "Convention" "An assembly of Chartist Delegates." I am afraid the title of Convention is too grand for our means, and raises too much expectation. To promise less and do more than is expected from us would be a novelty in Chartist politics, and would give an agreeable surprise to the newspapers.

It would be useful if each Delegate would deliver a written speech to the Assembly when making his report from the section he represents. Such report should comprise a brief statement of the numbers, income, activity, and recommendations of those who sent him, taking care that the facts reported are rather *under* than *over* stated. I say such a speech should be written, because it would then be more likely to be brief; I say written, because it would then be more likely to be exact; written, because then it could be referred to; written, because then there could be no dispute as to what was said; written, because then all these report speeches could be handed

[SATURDAY,

over to a committee, who could bring up a Summary Report of them all, which would be a very valuable guide to the assembly. We have lately seen that the reports made at some of the later Conventions have been called in question. One man denies this, another denies that—then the reporter is appealed to, who, perhaps, not being half paid, did not take a verbatim report, or, if he took it, has not kept it. When the delegates come to discuss then the speeches may be impromptu and spontaneous, but in reporting facts there wants no garniture of rhetoric. Completeness and accuracy are the things needed; and as the facts relate to others more than the speaker, it is but a suitable tribute to them to take some pains to write down a genuine report of their instructions, condition, and efficiency.

Further usefulness will arise if this assembly will confine itself to its own business. Even the late Manchester Conference, which made some pretension to improvement, indulged in perpetual digressions to reflect on other parties, which showed a want of independent strength and dignity. Chartist has almost talked itself down by its exaggeration. A fierce, blustering, hectoring speech is deemed a great deed of patriotism. There is still a lingering opinion that this mode of speaking is effective and damaging to the government. It unfortunately happens that it is damaging to nobody but ourselves. When Henry Hunt was on his Trial before Lord Ellenborough, Hunt remarked that "his opponents complained of his dangerous eloquence." "They do you great injustice," quietly remarked the judge. The same may be said of a great deal of the "dangerous eloquence" expended in the Chartist cause.

As any attempt to prohibit the exercise of the indignant faculty would be deemed an infringement of Chartist liberty, we may, perhaps, be able to regulate what we cannot eradicate. In some melodramas where there is much raging and screaming, I often pray that all could be brought into a separate act, which might be called the "Screaming Act," in which we could have it all at once and have done with it. In the same manner, we might appoint at the Convention a Committee of "Blood and Thunder," with Mr. Ernest Jones for chairman. They should have a day to themselves with boundless liberty to write their own addresses, pass their own resolutions, and make their own speeches, of any hue and of any length they pleased. Then this sort of thing should be considered as over and done with, and the Convention might proceed to business in a sober way.

ION.

The Executive Committee of the National Charter Association, held their usual weekly meeting on Wednesday evening. Present, Messrs. Arnott, Grassby, Harney, O'Connor, and Milne. Messrs. Holyoake and Jones, being in the country, were absent, and Messrs. Hunt and Reynolds, through indisposition, were also unable to attend. Julian Harney reported, that the sub-Committee appointed to draw up the plans to be submitted to the Committee had again met, and that their labours were near completion. The Secretary reported that, in accordance with the instructions given, public meetings would be held on Monday evening next, in the Lecture-hall, Greenwich; Tuesday evening, in the British Institution, Cowper-street, City-road; on Wednesday evening, in the South London-hall; and on Thursday evening, in the Literary Institution, Carlisle-street, Portman-market. Messrs. Hunniball and Piercy attended, and reported that they had examined the last quarter's accounts and found them perfectly correct; that the receipts amounted to £61 17s. 5d., and the expenditure to £59 17s. 2d., leaving a balance in hand of £2 0s. 3d.; but at the same time they requested to state that the balance of more than £19 due to the late Treasurer, still remained unliquidated. The report was received with a unanimous vote of thanks to the auditors for their services. The Secretary stated that he had made inquiries relative to the expense of getting a quantity of the address to the "Trades of the United Kingdom" printed, and that Mr. Reynolds had kindly offered to get the address stereotyped, and present the plates to the Committee. On the motion of Messrs. Harney and Grassby, it was unanimously agreed:—"That 12,000 copies of the address be printed for general circulation, and that the thanks of this Committee be presented to Mr. Reynolds. It having been agreed that a special meeting of the Executive be held on Sunday afternoon, March 30, at half-past three o'clock precisely, the Committee adjourned to that date.

REDEMPTION SOCIETY.—It will be seen in the financial account that the Coventry branch of the society raised £6 by their soirée in favour of the Communal Building Fund. The meeting was a concert and ball, and as it has been so successful they naturally wish to see all the other branches follow their example. If they should all agree to do so, there is little doubt that much money may be raised. We hope this will be duly taken into consideration, and that the coming Easter holidays may be made available for this purpose. The monies received for the week ending March 24, were:—Leeds, £2 1s. 3d.; Hyde, per Mr. Bradley, 5s. 4d. Communal Building Fund:—Coventry, per Mr. Shuffield, £6; Hyde, per Mr. Bradley, £1.

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK.

(From the Registrar-General's Report.)

The official report says:—"The aggravated rate of mortality in London, which marked the first two weeks of the current month, has prevailed without abatement in the period embraced by the present return. The deaths, which increased to 1247 in the beginning of March, and subsequently rose to 1401, amounted in the week ending last Saturday to 1412. Taking for comparison the ten corresponding weeks of 1841-50, it appears that the highest number was 1197, and occurred in 1845 (in a week when the mean temperature had fallen about ten degrees lower than usual), and that the average mortality was 997. This average, if corrected according to the supposed rate of increase in the population, amounts to 1088, and the increase above it exhibited in last week's return is 324. The sickness which now prevails is common, as already shown, to all periods of life; but it deserves notice that, whereas the total mortality returned in either of the last two weeks is nearly the same, the deaths of young persons under 15 years shows a decrease from 593 (in the week ending 15th March) to 566 last week, while those which occurred in the middle period of life rose from 412 to 456, and those in the still more advanced stage (for above 60 years) rose from 365 to 390. In the last week the deaths attributed to influenza—simply, or in conjunction with bronchitis, inflammation of the lungs, disease of the heart, or other malady—are 65; in the previous week they were 39; whilst the average of corresponding weeks does not exceed 8. The cases classed under bronchitis have decreased from 171 to 156, and are still at least double the average; those from pneumonia or inflammation of the lungs remain about 125, whilst the average does not exceed 87. The cases ascribed in the Table to asthma are 39, which is also more than usual; phthisis or consumption numbers 166 in both weeks, while the average, though corrected for increased population, is less than 150. Hooping-cough carried off 81 children, while the average number in corresponding weeks is 48, and croup 12. Amongst the epidemics, besides hooping-cough, that are incident to childhood, measles show some disposition to prevail; but it is satisfactory to observe that smallpox is less fatal than it was a few weeks ago, and has declined to 16 deaths. Instances of the neglect of vaccination, or of determined opposition to it, are still subject of complaint on the part of those whose professional aid is required in the treatment of the disease. Last week the births of 824 boys and 756 girls, in all 1580 children, were registered. The average of six corresponding weeks in 1845-50 was 1431.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

SATURDAY.

This week has presented nothing remarkable in the market for English Funds. On Monday the market was rather dull. On Tuesday and Wednesday there was a slight improvement without much business. Yesterday the market was dull. Consols closed at 96 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 96 $\frac{3}{4}$.

The range of fluctuations during the week has been moderate. Consols, 96 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 96 $\frac{3}{4}$; Exchequer Bills, 51s. to 55s. premium. This morning Consols opened at 96 $\frac{1}{2}$. In the Foreign Stock Market there has been rather a lull during the last few days. In the official list yesterday, the bargains comprised—Ecuador, 34; Granada, ex coupon, 17; Mexican, for money, 33 $\frac{1}{2}$, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4, and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$; for the account, 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 4. Peruvian, for money, 85 and 85 $\frac{1}{2}$; for the account, 85 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 86; Deferred, 39 and 39 $\frac{1}{2}$. Portuguese Five per Cents. Converted, 35 $\frac{1}{2}$; the Four per Cents, 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$; Spanish Five per Cents, 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$; Coupons, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$; Passive, 6; Spanish Three per Cents, 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$; and Dutch Two-and-a-Half per Cents, 58 $\frac{1}{2}$.

MARK-LANE, FRIDAY, March 28.

Supplies of Wheat and Flour since Monday moderate. Barley and Oats scanty. Wheat and Barley firm at former rates. Oats 6d. dearer. Prices have been firm at country markets during the week at former rates, with, in some instances, an advance of 1s. per quarter on Wheat.

Arrivals from March 24 to 28:

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat	2070	—	4770
Barley	1630	—	—
Oats.. ..	910	860	1360
Flour	—	—	1290

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.
(Closing Prices.)

	Satur.	Mond.	Tues.	Wedns.	Thurs.	Frid.
Bank Stock	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 p. C. Red ..	96 $\frac{1}{2}$					
3 p. C. An. 1725.	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 p. C. Con. An.	96 $\frac{1}{2}$					
5 p. Cent. An.	—	—	—	—	—	—
New 5 per Cts.	—	7 $\frac{1}{2}$				
Long Ans., 1860.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ind. St. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ p. c.t.	62 p	60 p	57 p	61 p	57 p	57 p
Ditto Bonds ..	53 p	—	54 p	54 p	50 p	53 p
Ex. Bills, 1000L.	53 p	—	54 p	54 p	—	—
Ditto, 500L.	53 p	55 p	54 p	54 p	50 p	50 p
Ditto, Small	53 p	55 p	54 p	54 p	50 p	50 p

FOREIGN FUNDS.

(Last Official Quotation during the Week ending Friday Evening.)

Austrian 5 per Cents.	—	Mexican 5 per Ct. Acc. 33 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
Belgian Bds., 44 p. Ct.	—	Small... ..	—
Brazilian 5 per Cents.	—	Napolitan 5 per Cents.	—
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cts.	—	Peruvian 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cents.	—
Chilian 3 per Cents..	—	Portuguese 3 per Cents. 35 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
Danish 5 per Cents..	—	— per Cts. 34 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
Dutch 24 per Cents... .	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	Annuities —	—
4 per Cents... .	92	Russian, 1822, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p. Cts. 97 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
Ecuador Bonds ..	4	Span. Actives, 5 p. Cts. 21 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
French 3 p.C.A. at Paris 91.10	—	Passive	6
3 p.Cts., Mar. 28, 97.80	—	Deferred	—

SHARES.

Last Official Quotation for the Week ending Thursday Evening.

	RAILWAYS.	BANKS.
Aberdeen	161	Australasian ...
Bristol and Exeter	82	British North American ...
Caledonian	141	Colonial ...
Eastern Counties	74	Commercial of London ...
Edinburgh and Glasgow	35	London and Westminster ...
Great Northern ..	173	London Joint Stock ...
Great S. & W. (Ireland)	43	National of Ireland ...
Great Western ..	89	National Provincial ...
Lancashire and Yorkshire	61	Provincial of Ireland ...
Lancaster and Carlisle	—	Union of Australia ...
Lord, Brighton, & S. Coast	25	Union of London ...
London and Blackwall.	84	MINES.
London and N.-Western	1294	Bolanos ...
Midland ..	63	British Imperial ...
North British ..	108	Dito, St. John del Rey ...
South-Eastern and Dover	273	Cobre Copper ...
South-Western ..	89	MISCELLANEOUS.
York, Newcastle, & Berwick	212	Australian Agricultural ...
York and North Midland	274	Canada ...
DOCKS.	—	General Steam ...
East and West India ..	—	General & Oriental Steam ...
London ..	—	Royal Mail Steam ...
St. Katharine ..	—	South Australian ...

GRAIN, MARK-LANE, March 28.

Wheat, R. New	38s. to 38s.	Maple	38s. to 38s.
Fine	38	White	24 to 26
Old	38	Boilers	26 to 28
White	38	Beans, Ticks	23 to 24
Fine	42	Old	26 to 27
Superior New	46	Indian Corn	28 to 30
Rye	24	Oats, Feed	17 to 18
Bulw.	20	Fine	18 to 19
Malting	25	Poland	19 to 20
Malt, Ord.	48	Fine	20 to 21
Fine	50	Potato	18 to 19
Peas, Hog	21	Fine	19 to 20

GENERAL AVERAGE PRICE OF GRAIN.

WEEK ENDING March 22.

	Imperial General Weekly Average.
Wheat	37s. 5d.
Barley	23
Oats	16 9
Aggregat. Average of the Six Weeks.	25 8
Wheat	37s. 2d.
Barley	22 11
Oats	16 3
Peas	25 9

FLOUR.

Town-made	per sack	40s. to 43s.
Seconds	37	—
Essex and Suffolk, on board ship	35	34
Norfolk and Stockton	30	32
American	per barrel	21 to 23
Canadian	21	23
Wheaten Bread, 7d. the 4lb. loaf. Households, 5d.	—	—

BUTCHERS' MEAT.

	NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL.*	SMITHFIELD*,
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Beef	2 to 3	2 to 3
Mutton	2 10	3 10
Veal	2 10	4 0
Pork	2 8	3 8

* To sink the offal, per 8lb.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

	Tuesday, March 25.	
BANKRUPTS.—R. AVANS, Canterbury, fellmonger, to surrender April 4, May 5; solicitors, Mr. Venour, Gray's-in-square, and Messrs. Furleys and Mercer, Canterbury; official assignee, Mr. Cannan, Bircham-lane, Cornhill—R. WESTMACOTT, Fulham-road, Chelsea, nurseryman, April 4, May 5; solicitor, Mr. Holcombe, Ebury-street, Pimlico, and Chancery-lane; official assignee, Mr. Whitmore, Basinghall-street—T. BRITTEN, Suffolk-lane, Cannon-street, wine merchant, April 1, May 1; solicitors, Messrs. Sewell, Fox, and Sewell, Old Broad-street; official assignee, Mr. Bell, Coleman-street-buildings—A. COLVER, Dover, jeweller, April 1, May 1; solicitor, Mr. Harris, Moorgate-street; official assignee, Mr. Johnson, Basinghall-street—J. GLASPOOL, Regent-street, ladies' bootmaker, April 8, May 6; solicitors, Mr. Groome, Abchurch-lane, Lombard-street—R. JACKSON, Selby, Yorkshire, farmer, April 14, May 5; solicitors, Mr. Wedale, Selby, and Messrs. Bevan, Bristol; official assignee, Mr. Miller, Bristol—J. STEELE, Spital-lane, new Rochdale, brewer, April 10, May 7; solicitors, Messrs. James, Merthyr Tydfil, and Mr. Bevan, Bristol; official assignee, Mr. Miller, Bristol—J. STEELE, Spital-lane, new Rochdale, brewer, April 10, May 7; solicitors, Messrs. Hitchcock, Buckley, and Tidwell, Manchester; official assignee, Mr. Mackenzie, Manchester.		
BANKRUPTS.—A. COLVER, jun., Dover, jeweller, to surrender April 1, May 1; solicitor, Mr. Harris, Moorgate-street; official assignee, Mr. Johnson, Basinghall-street—G. GARNHAM, Rougham, Suffolk, farmer, April 11, May 9; solicitors, Mr. Hensman, Basing-lane, Bow-lane, Cheapside; and Messrs. Wayman and Co., Bury St. Edmund's; official assignee, Mr. Cannan, Bircham-lane, Cornhill—H. WISBECH, St. Peter, Cambridgeshire, grocer, April 5, May 9; solicitors, Messrs. Abbott, Jenkins, and Abbott, New-inn, Strand; and Mr. Watson, Wisbech; official assignee, Mr. Cannan, Bircham-lane, Cornhill—W. M'DOWALL, Little Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, printer, April 5, May 9; solicitor, Mr. Edmunds, South-square, Gray's-in-square; official assignee, Mr. Whitmore, Basinghall-street—R. PAUL, Brighton, wine merchant, April 14, May 10; solicitors, Messrs. Bridger and Collins, King William-street; official assignee, Mr. Fennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street—S. T. JAY, Badley, Suffolk, miller, April 9, May 9; solicitors, Messrs. Trinder and Eyre, John-street, Bedford-row; and Mr. Archer, Stowmarket; official assignee, Mr. Stanfords—J. GLASPOOL, Regent-street, ladies' bootmaker, April 8, May 6; solicitors, Messrs. A'Beckett and Sympson, Golden-square; official assignee, Mr. Groome, Abchurch-lane, Lombard-street—H. C. BILLING, Cheapside, silversmith, April 7, May 12; solicitor, Mr. Pediell, Cheapside; official assignee, Mr. Edwards, Sambrook-court, Basinghall-street—R. JACKSON, Selby, Yorkshire, tanner, April 14, May 5; solicitors, Mr. Wedale, Selby; and Messrs. Bond and Barwick, Leeds; official assignee, Mr. Hope, Leeds—J. POWLESLEY, South Tawton, Devonshire, dealer in seeds, April 15, May 6; solicitors, Mr. Fulford, North Tawton, Mr. Tanner, Crediton, and Mr. Stogdon, Exeter; official assignee, Mr. Hirtzel, Exeter—W. G. WILLIAMS, Carnarvon, woollen draper, April 10, May 15; solicitor, Mr. Williams, Liverpool; official assignee, Mr. Bird, Liverpool—ARMSTRONG, Bolton-le-Moors, Lancashire, glass dealer, April 14 and 28; solicitor, Mr. Marsland, Bolton-le-Moors; official assignee, Mr. Fraser, Manchester—R. MILLER and A. STREET, Lancaster, builders, April 7 and 29; solicitor, Mr. Blackhurst, Preston; official assignee, Mr. Pott, Manchester.		

Friday, March 28.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.
GRAND EXTRA NIGHT.
Putting the talents of Mlle. CAROLINE DUPREZ, Mlle. FIORENTINI, Signor CALZOLARI, M. POULTIER, Mlle. CARLOTTA GRISI, and Mlle. AMALIA FERRARIS.

It is respectfully announced that a GRAND EXTRA NIGHT will take place on THURSDAY NEXT, April 3rd, when will be presented Auber's celebrated opera GUSTAVE III.; ou, Le Bal Masqué, Amélie, Mde. Fioroni; Arvedson, Mile. Piller; and Oscar (Page of the King), Mlle. Caroline Duprez; Anthonio, Signor Lorenzo; Dehorn, Signor F. Lablache; Abbott, M. Pouliot; and Gustave III., Signor Calzolari. In the Ball scene, Mlle. Carlotta Grisi will appear in a Grand Pas, assisted by Miles. Aussonand, Dantone. With various entertainments in the Ballet Department, in which Mlle. Carlotta Grisi, Miles. Aussonand, Tedeschini, Dantone, and Amalia Ferraris; MM. Gosselin, Elrich, and Charles will appear.

Application for Boxes, Stalls, and Tickets to be made at the Box-office of the theatre.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA,
COVENT-GARDEN.

FIRST NIGHT, THURSDAY, APRIL 3rd.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA have the honour to inform the Nobility, Gentry, Subscribers, and the Public that the Season will commence on THURSDAY, APRIL 3rd (which evening will be given in lieu of the first Tuesday of the Subscription), with Rossini's Grand Opera,

SEMIRAMIDE.

Semiramide, Madame Grisi.
Arasce, Mademoiselle Angri,
(Her First Appearance these Two Years).
Orfeo, Signor Tagliacico,
Adreno, Signor Luigi Mel.
Assur, Signor Salvatore,
(His First Appearance in England).
Composer, Conductor, and Director of the Music,
MR. COSTA.

Boxes and Stalls may be engaged and full particulars obtained at the Box Office of the Theatre, which is open from Eleven until Five o'clock.

HENRY RUSSELL (from America) will give his VOCAL and PICTORIAL ENTERTAINMENT, entitled the FAR WEST, or the Emigrant's Progress from the Old World to the New, at the Royal Olympic Theatre, commencing on Monday, April 14, and four successive nights. Mr. Russell will introduce his new compositions—"The parting tear;" "Cheer, boys, cheer; no more of idle sorrow;" "Gaily goes the ship when the wind blows fair;" "Land, land, to the west, to the west, to the land of the free;" "The Falls of Niagara," &c., and several of his favourite compositions. The principal features of this entertainment are by no means intended to be looked upon solely in the light of a mere entertaining exhibition. It is intended to instruct as well as to amuse; and to instruct, moreover, in one of the most profoundly and practically important subjects which can be offered to the notice of the English people. The succession of pictures, constituting the Exhibition, are no mere fancy sketches. They do not represent scenes which few or none save rich tourists or professional travellers can ever hope to visit. They do not appeal to the limited interest or the partial knowledge which may be found to exist among certain classes, with reference to the architectural beauties or the historical associations of the countries delineated; on the contrary, they are thoroughly practical pictures—transcripts from the daily lives of hundreds of thousands of our countrymen and women—representing scenes which hundreds of thousands more are thinking of encountering—scenes in which practicable and reliable information is always in eager demand—scenes, in fact, appealing directly to the deepest interest and most cherished prospects of the multitudes who are daily making up their minds to seek better fortunes and brighter days upon the boundless plains, and by the clear broad rivers of the West. Mr. Russell will perform upon Messrs. Kirkman and Son's Grand Fonda Piano. Doors open at Half-past Seven, to commence at Eight o'clock. Stalls, 3s.; dress circle, 2s.; pit, 1s.; gallery, 6d. Private boxes, £1 1s., and 1ls. 6d. each. Tickets, places, and private boxes to be had of Mr. W. Simmonds, at the box-office, from eleven until five daily, and after half-past six in the evening.

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Your Writing is Test of Character.

THE Secret Art of discovering the true character of individuals from the peculiarities of their handwriting has long been practised by MISS EMILY DEAN with astonishing success. Her startling delineations of character are both full and detailed, occupying the four pages of a sheet of letter-paper, the style of description differing from anything yet attempted. All persons wishing to "know themselves," or their friends, by means of this extraordinary and interesting science, must send a specimen of their writing, stating sex and age, or, if supposed age, of the writer, to Miss Emily Dean, Grainger-street, No. 48, Liverpool-street, Argyle-square, London (enclosing fifteen unpostage-stamps), and will receive, in a few days, a written description of the mental and moral qualities, talents, tastes, affections, virtues, failings, &c., of the writer, with many other things hitherto unsuspected.

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FIVE MINUTES' ADVICE TO LOVERS and HUSBANDS, SWEETHEARTS, and WIVES. By Miss EMILY DEAN. Sent post-free, on receipt of thirteen postage-stamps.—"A charming book for young people."—Lady's Newspaper. "We cordially recommend it."—Family Herald. Miss Dean forwards her prospectus on receipt of a large directed envelope, and two postage-stamps to prepay it. Address No. 48, Liverpool-street, Argyle-square, London.

DR. CULVERWELL ON NERVOUSNESS, DEBILITY, AND INDIGESTION; also on Urinary Derangements, Constipation, and Hemorrhoids.

1s. each; by Post, 1s. 6d.
WHAT TO EAT; DRINK, AND AVOID.
"Abstinenter multi curantur morbi."

A popular exposition of the principal causes (over and careless feeding, &c.) of the above harassing and distressing complaints, with an equally intelligible and popular exposition of how we should live to get rid of them; to which added diet tables for every meal in the day, and full instructions for the regimen and observance of every hour out of the twenty-four: illustrated by numerous cases, &c.

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INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION SALON, AND
FOREIGNERS' REUNION.

MESSRS. EDWARDS and COMPANY have at length completed arrangements, by which they are enabled to offer to the Exhibitors and Visitors at the approaching Great Exhibition, facilities and accommodation, which are not contemplated or provided by the Royal Commission. They have accepted tenders from Mr. J. Walker, of Gracechurch-street, for the erection of a Superb Building of Iron, containing a Grand Auction-hall, Magnificent Refreshment-rooms, and an Exposition Salon. They propose to introduce into this country, not merely for the purposes of the Exhibition, but as a permanent course of business, the American system of disposal of consignments, direct from the manufacturer, by the hammer.

They intend by a continued Auction during the Exhibition to dispose of the most valuable products of all nations. Their arrangements also comprise the sale by hand, over the counter, of the rare works of Art and Skill. They have secured for the accommodation of visitors to the Exhibition, Singulair Refreshment-rooms, in which will be dispensed, as well, Wine, of the highest and most novel character, as also Fruits, the produce of the Choicest Gardens, and comestibles generally, the character of which is guaranteed by the fact that they have secured the services of the "Premier Chef." No expense has been spared by Messrs. Edwards and Company in the adaptation of their splendid premises at the West-end for the purposes of a Reunion, whereat the Learned, Scientific, Manufacturing, and Commercial representatives of the whole World may meet to cultivate a kind of intelligence, and exchange valuable information.

Messrs. Edwards and Company have ample City Premises, Wharfage, and Warehouses for the deposit of goods and the transaction of Custom House business. They have also secured for the benefit of their Consignors, the valuable services of Messrs. John Hampden and Company, and have, at the same time, retained Legal Gentlemen, whose high standing and character constitute a voucher for the safety of the interests committed to their care.

Parties desirous of obtaining information as to the course of business intended to be adopted by Messrs. Edwards and Company, may apply for Prospectuses at the Offices of Messrs. John Hampden and Company, 418, West Strand, where the preliminary business will be conducted.

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TAYLOR BROTHERS confidently challenge comparison between this and any of the so-called homopathic cocoa offered to the public. A single trial will suffice. Observe, particularly, upon each packet, the name, TAYLOR BROTHERS, LONDON, whose advantages over other makers arises from the paramount extent of their manufacture; larger experience, greater command of markets, matured judgment in selection, and skill in preparation, enabling them to offer every kind of plain and fancy COCOA AND CHOCOLATE, as regards both quality and price, upon unequalled terms. They are also inventors and exclusive proprietors of the SOLUBLE AND DIETETIC COCOAS. The latter is strongly recommended by the faculty to invalids, convalescents, and dyspeptics, as most nutritious and easy of digestion, and being free from the exciting properties of tea and coffee, makes it a most desirable refreshment after a late evening.

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These standard Preparations, which WILL KEEP GOOD IN ANY CLIMATE, may be had, wholesale, at the Mills, 211, BRICK-LANE, LONDON, and retail from all Grocers, Tea Dealers, and Oilmen.

CAUTION.—To prevent disappointment see that the name "Taylor Brothers" is upon every packet, there being many vicious imitations of the SOLUBLE and DIETETIC COCOAS calculated to bring Cocoa into disrepute.

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Each Capsule containing the Specific is made of the purest Gelatine, which, encased in tin foil, may be conveniently carried in the pocket, and, being both elastic and pleasant to take, affords the greatest facility for repeating the doses without intermission—a desideratum to persons travelling, visiting, or engaged in business, as well as to those who object to fluid medicines, being unobjectionable to the most susceptible stomach.

Prepared only by GEORGE FRANKS, Surgeon, at his Laboratory, 90, Blackfriars-road, London, where they may be had, and of all Medicine Venders, in boxes, at 2s. 9d. and 4s. 6d. each, or sent free by post at 3s. and 3s. each. Of whom, also, may be had, in bottles, at 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 1ls. each.

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TESTIMONIALS.

From Joseph Henry Green, Esq., F.R.S., President of the Royal College of Surgeons, London; Senior Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital; and Professor of Surgery in King's College, London.

"I have made trial of Mr. Frank's Solution of Copaiba, at St. Thomas's Hospital, in a variety of cases, and the results warrant my stating, that it is an efficacious remedy, and one which does not produce the usual unpleasant effects of Copaiba.

(Signed) JOSEPH HENRY GREEN.

From Branby Cooper, Esq., F.R.S., one of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, London; Senior Surgeon to Guy's Hospital; and Lecturer on Anatomy, &c.

"Mr. Branby Cooper presents his compliments to Mr. George Franks, and has great pleasure in bearing testimony to the efficacy of his Solution of Copaiba. Mr. Cooper has prescribed the Solution in ten or twelve cases with perfect success.

New-street, April 13, 1835."

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HOMEOPATHY.—All the Homoeopathic

Medicines, in Globules, Tinctures, and Trituration, are prepared with the greatest care and accuracy by JOHN MAWSON, Homoeopathic Chemist, 4, Hood-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and 60, Fawcett-street, Sunderland; from whom they may be obtained, in single tubes, mat pocket cases, and boxes, suitable for families and the profession. "Laurie's" and all other works on Homoeopathy, together with cases and tubes, sent post-free to all parts of the kingdom. Dispensaries and the profession supplied on liberal terms.

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MAWSON'S HOMEOPATHIC COCOA.—The Cocoa-nut, or nib, contains a very large proportion of nutritive matter, consisting of a farinaceous substance, and of a rich and pleasant oil. This oil is esteemed on account of its being less liable than any other oil to rancidity. Homoeopathic physicians are united in their recommendation of cocoa as a beverage; and the testimonial from other sources are numerous and of the highest character. It was so highly esteemed by Linnaeus, the chief of Naturalists, that he named Theobroma—"Food for the Gods."

Dr. Pareira says, "It is a very nourishing beverage, devoid of all the ill properties possessed by both tea and coffee."

Dr. Epps, the popular lecturer on Physiology, says:—"Mothers with sucking should never take Coffee; they should suckle on Cocoa. I have the testimony of mothers who have so suckled, and they state that they found, with Cocoa without Beer, they produced quite sufficient milk, and the children suckled with such diet were in better health than those suckled on previous occasion, when Beer, and Coffee, and Tea formed the liquid part of their diet." The same author adds:—"Cocoa is the best of all flavoured drunks. It is highly nutritious."

Dr. Hooper says:—"This food is admirably calculated for the sick, and to those who are in health it is a luxury."

Many persons have been turned against the use of Cocoa and Chocolate from having tried the many, and very generally inferior article vended at the grocers' shops under that name. The preparation here offered by JOHN MAWSON contains all the nutritive properties of the nut without any objectionable admixture. It is, therefore, recommended as an agreeable and wholesome substitute for Coffee, to which it is certainly much superior, as it is also to the Cocos sold as "Soluble Cocoa," "Flake Cocoa," &c. It is light, easy of digestion, agreeable, nutritious, and requires little time or trouble in preparing for use.

TESTIMONIAL.—Having used the Homoeopathic Cocoa prepared by Mr. Mawson, I have no hesitation in giving it my fullest recommendation.—Thomas Hayle, M.D.

Sold, Wholesale and Retail, by JOHN MAWSON, Homoeopathic Chemist, 4, Hood-street, Newcastle, and 60, Fawcett-street, Sunderland.

AGENTS.—North Shields—Messrs. and Son, Druggists. Sunderland—Mr. John Hill, grocer. South Shields—Bell and May, druggists. Penrith—Mr. George Ramsay, druggist. Stockton—John Dodgson and Co. druggists. Durham—Scawin and Monks, druggists. Darlington—Mr. S. Barlow, druggist. Carlisle—Mr. Harrison, druggist. Agents wanted!

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HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT.—An extraordinary CURE OF SCROFULA OR KING'S EVIL.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. J. H. ALLIBAT, 209, High-street, Cheltenham, dated the 22nd of January, 1830.

To Professor HOLLOWAY.

"Sir,—My eldest son, when about three years of age, was afflicted with a Glandular Swelling in the neck, which, after a short time, broke out into an Ulcer. An eminent medical man pronounced it as a very bad case of Scrofula, and prescribed for a considerable time without effect. The disease then for four years went on gradually increasing in violence, when, besides the ulcer in the neck, another formed below the left knee, and a third under the eye, besides seven others on the left arm, with tumours between the eyes, which we expected to break. During the whole of this time my son had received the constant advice of the most celebrated medical Gentlemen at Cheltenham, besides being for several months at the General Hospital, where one of the Surgeons said that he would amputate the left arm, but that the blood was so impure that, if that limb were taken off, it would be then even impossible to subdue the disease. In this desperate state I determined to give your Pills and Ointment a trial, and, after two months' perseverance in their use, the tumour gradually began to disappear, and the discharge from all the ulcers perceptibly decreased, and at the expiration of eight months they were perfectly healed, and the boy thoroughly restored to the blessings of health, to the astonishment of a large circle of acquaintances, who could testify to the truth of this miraculous case. Three years have now elapsed without any recurrence to the malady, and the boy is now as healthy as heart can wish. Under these circumstances I consider that I should be truly ungrateful were I not to make you acquainted with this wonderful cure, effected by your medicines, after every other means had failed."

(Signed) "J. H. ALLIBAT."

Sold by the Proprietor, 244, Strand (near Temple Bar), London, and by all respectable Venders of Patent Medicines throughout the Civilized World, in Pots and Boxes, at 1s. 1d., 2s., 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., 11s., 22s., and 33s. each. There is a very considerable saving in taking the larger sizes.

N.B.—Directions for the guidance of Patients are affixed to each pot or box.

DO YOU WANT LUXURIANT and BEAUTIFUL HAIR, WHISKERS, &c.? The immense public patronage bestowed upon Miss ELLEN GRAHAM'S NIOKRENE, is sufficient evidence of its amazing properties in reproducing the human hair, whether lost by disease or natural decay, preventing the hair falling off, strengthening weak hair, and checking graying. It is guaranteed to produce whiskers, moustaches, &c., in three weeks, without fall. It is elegantly scented; and sufficient for three months' use will be sent free, on receipt of twenty-four postage stamps, by Miss Ellen Graham, 6, Ampton-street, Gray's-inn-road, London. Unlike all other preparations for the hair, it is free from artificial colouring and filthy greasiness, well known to be so injurious to it.

AUTHENTIC TESTIMONIALS.

"My hair is restored. Thanks to your very valuable Niokrene.—Miss Mane, Kennington.

"I tried every other compound advertized, and they are all impotent. Your Niokrene has produced the effect beautifully.—Mr. James, St. Albans."

"Your Niokrene is the most excellent preparation I have ever analyzed, being free from colouring matter and injurious scent. The stimulant is excellent."—Dr. John Thompson, author of a "Treatise on the Human Hair," and Professor of Chemistry.

For the nursery it is invaluable, its balsamic properties being admirably adapted to infants' hair.

WHY NOT WALK WITH EASE?

Soft and hard coras and bunions may be instantly relieved and permanently cured, by Miss Graham's PLUMBINE, in three days. It is sent free for thirteen postage stamps.

"It cured my corns like magic."—Mr. Johns, Hounslow.

"My bunion has not appeared since."—Mrs. Sims, Truro.

THE STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1825.—CONSTITUTED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT.
ANNUAL REPORT.

The TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of this Company was held on Saturday, the 15th of February, within their Office, No. 3, George-street, Edinburgh—

GEORGE PATTON, Esq., Advocate, in the chair.

In opening the proceedings the Chairman congratulated the meeting on the satisfactory position of the Company generally, and called attention to a few of the leading results in the business of the past year. "It has never happened," he proceeded, "that parties called to fill this chair have not had to offer congratulations upon the progress and prosperity of the Company; and it is a high gratification to me to be able on this occasion not only to announce that the past year has, like its predecessors, exhibited marks of progress, but that in no former year has the amount of business been so large and the progress of the Company, in all respects, so highly satisfactory.

"During the past year we have effected new Insurances on 861 Lives, and to the amount of no less a sum than £309,147 10s. 6d., independently of other large transactions in different classes of business; the mortality, on the other hand, has been very small—the claims under policies amounting to little more than 1 per cent. on the sum assured, which, in a Company of twenty-five years' standing is, it must be allowed, a very striking result.

"The fact that new Assurances have been effected to the amount of upwards of half a million in a single year, adding to your yearly premiums no less than £17,500 14s. 9d. (exclusive of £10,000 of annual premiums, derived from the business of the Experience Company, acquired by the Standard), affords most gratifying evidence of the estimation in which the Company is held, and I trust I may say of the zeal and efficiency with which its affairs have been conducted. That this large amount of Assurance has not been obtained by any neglect of precaution in the selection of lives, is evidenced by the fact, that the 861 lives were selected from 1666 proposals, and that no less than 295 were rejected. If we err, I believe, at all, it is on the side of caution.

"I trust, Gentlemen, I may be pardoned for drawing your attention to the fact that this Company now transacts annually—with one, or it may be, two exceptions—the largest business in Great Britain. Indeed, I believe I may safely say, that in the extent of its Annual Transactions in Life Assurance, it is now the third, if not the second office in the World. Other institutions, established at an earlier period than the Standard, may have a larger accumulation of past business, but few institutions for Life Assurance enjoy so great an amount of public favour, and, estimated by the amount of its annual business, the Standard holds the highest position in Scotland. This is certainly a proud position; but, at the same time, it leads to the anxiety, I may say ambition, to do still more, and I see no reason why the Standard should not yet occupy the first place.

"The result of our last five years' transactions will form the subject of a report to be submitted to a Special General Meeting of the Company, which will be called for the purpose in the course of a few weeks. Though the present results are not as yet ascertained, it is certain they will and must be of a gratifying character, looking to the general results of the business during the five years embraced by the present investigation. One thing, as a Member of the Investigation Committee, I can assure you of—that the valuation is made on approved and sure data, and that not one farthing of profit will be distributed which is not demonstrated to exist, while the profits of future years are not to any extent whatever anticipated or encroached upon.

"The details of the results of our transactions for the last year, and comparative results at different periods of the history of the Company, will be submitted for your consideration, and will confirm the remarks which I have made. The state of the whole affairs you will find to be in a most satisfactory condition; and, in short, in every department we have to congratulate ourselves that we are doing, not only a very extensive but a very successful and increasing business."

Various statements, showing the progress of the Institution since its commencement, and the satisfactory result of the business during the past year, were then submitted to the meeting. It appeared—

That 891 New Policies had been issued by the Company during the year ending 15th November, 1850, 861 for Assurances, and 30 for other transactions.

That the New Assurances during that period amounted to £309,147 10s. 6d., yielding New Premiums to the amount of £17,500 14s. 9d.

That the number of proposals made to the Company during the same period was 1666, of which 861 were accepted, and 203 declined;—the whole sum proposed for Assurance being £621,943 14s. 2d.

That a very large addition had been made to the Funds of the Company, and that the directors were still enabled to maintain a high rate of interest on their investments, which are almost entirely secured on Land or on Government Securities.

As the balance of the Company's books at 15th November, 1850, closed the period of five years since last division of profits, extending from 15th November, 1845, to 15th November, 1850, the directors drew particular attention in their Report to the progress of the Company during that period, and the following facts were stated in evidence of the rapid advance of the Company's business:—

That the number of proposals for Assurance made to the Company during the period were 4360, for Assurances to the amount of £2,737,925 4s. 5d.

That of this number, 3435 proposals for Assurances to the amount of £2,146,631 13s. 9d. had been accepted, and 924, for Assurances to the amount of £391,283 11s. 8d., declined. That the New Premiums on business transacted during the period have amounted on an average to £14,700 per annum, or £73,480 13s. in all of new premiums, from 1845 to 1850.

That the actual expenses of conducting the business have not increased during the period, and are consequently a much smaller per centage on the revenue than in 1845.

That the Revenue of the Company is £169,151 16s. 4d. per annum.

A report made to the Board of Directors by Charles Pearson, Esq., the Company's Auditor, after examination of the yearly accounts, was then read, from which the following is an extract:—

"The reporter, after a careful examination of the various cash-books and journals, and the relative cash and agency vouchers and bank pass-books, has much satisfaction in stating that he has found the whole accurately stated and vouchered; and that the books are kept in the most distinct manner—a point of much importance in a business involving transactions so numerous and of such magnitude.

"The reporter does not think it necessary to enter into any detail in regard to the satisfactory progress of the Company's business, as that will be exhibited in the various reports and statements, prepared as usual by the Manager; and he will merely add, that the whole business of the Company continues to be conducted with the utmost regularity and efficiency."

The various reports submitted were approved of, and the meeting expressed entire satisfaction with the progress and position of the Company.

After the election of new directors in room of those retiring, the establishment for the ensuing year was declared to be as follows:—

GOVERNOR.
His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry.
DEPUTY-GOVERNOR.
The Right Honourable the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine.
EDINBURGH.
ORDINARY DIRECTORS.
Charles Pearson, Esq., Accountant, 128, George-street.
James Condie, Esq., Perth.
James Robertson, Esq., W.S., 11, Heriot-row.
James Hay, Esq., Merchant, Leith.
George Moir, Esq., Advocate, 41, Charlotte-square.
Harry Maxwell Inglis, Esq., W.S., 4, Coates-crescent.
Anthony Trail, Esq., Northumberland-street.
John Silgo, Esq., of Carmyle, 5, Drummond-place.
Andrew Blackburn, Esq., Merchant, 8, Queen-street.
Thomas Graham Murray, Esq., W.S., 4, Glenfinlas-street.
James Veitch, Esq., of Ellock.
William Wood, Esq., Surgeon, 9, Darnaway-street.
Alexander James Russell, Esq., C.S., 9, Shandwick-place.
William Moncrieff, Esq., Accountant, George-street.
LONDON.
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD.
The Right Honourable the Earl of Aberdeen.
ORDINARY DIRECTORS.
Alexander Gillespie, Esq., 3, Bullister-court.
A. Macgregor, Esq., 31, Chester-street, Grosvenor-place.
John Scott, Esq., 4, Hyde-park-street.
John Plowes, Esq., 61, Old Broad-street.
F. Le Breton, Esq., 3, Crosby-square.
John Lindsay, Esq., Laurence Pountney-lane.
Thomas H. Brooking, Esq., Alderman's-walk.
London Office, 83, King William-street.

A vote of thanks was presented to the Boards of Direction in Edinburgh and London, to the Local Boards, to the Manager, and other officers of the Company, after which the meeting separated.

By order of the Directors,
WILL. THOS. THOMSON, Manager.
PETER EWART, Resident Secretary.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the COMPANY will be held in a few weeks, to receive the Report of the Directors on the Investigation of the Company's affairs, and division of profits.

London, 82, King William-street.

DIVISION OF PROFITS.
ALBION LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, LONDON. Instituted in 1805.

DIRECTORS.
JOHN HAMPDEN GLEDSTANES, Esq., Chairman.
CHARLES RUSSELL, Esq., Deputy Chairman.
Thomas Starling Benson, Esq.
James W. Bosanquet, Esq.
Frederick Burnester, Esq.
John Coningham, Esq.
Frederick D. Danvers, Esq.

At the last Division of Profits (1849), every policy-holder interested upon the Participating Scale of Premiums became entitled to a return of one-fifth of all the premium he had paid, either in the form of an immediate Cash payment, or by Augmentation of the Sum Insured, or Reduction of the Future Premium. The next division will take place in 1852, when every Policy effected on or before 30th April next will entitle the holder to a larger share of the divisible surplus than if effected after that date.

Amongst other advantages secured to policy-holders in this Company, are—a low rate of premium at the younger ages; the payment of the sum insured at the end of thirty days after proof of death; and the liberty of residing in many parts of North America, the Cape, New Zealand, and Australia, without any extra charge except for Sea-risk.

For Forms of Proposal, Prospectuses, &c., apply to any of the Company's Agents, or to JOHN LE CAPELAIN, Actuary and Secretary.

TRAFAKLAR LIFE ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION, OFFICES: 40, PALL-MALL, LONDON.

This Association has been established for the purpose of providing ANNUITIES TO THE SHARE AND POLICY-HOLDERS, in the event of pecuniary misfortune, incapacity, or old age; which are not liable to forfeiture in cases of Bankruptcy, Insolvency, or failure of any description—and also

SECURING EDUCATION, APPRENTICESHIP FEES, OR ENDOWMENTS TO THEIR CHILDREN.

Detailed Prospectuses, containing the names and addresses of the shareholders, rates of premium, an explanation of the system now originated, together with useful information and statistics respecting Life Assurance, may be had on application at the offices.

Combination Policies, payable in the event of casualties of any kind totally disabling the Assured, or death, are issued at moderate rates. This important addition to the principle of Assurance deserves the serious attention of persons in all positions of life.

Immediate and deferred Annuities are granted. All policies indisputable, whereby the power on the part of the office in resisting a claim under any circumstance whatever is removed.

Loans are effected on personal and other securities in connection with Life Assurance.

Parties desirous of becoming Agents or Medical Referees are requested to communicate with the Secretary.

By order of the Board, THOMAS H. BAYLIS, Resident Manager and Secretary.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, 27, Regent-street, Waterloo-place, London.

DIRECTORS.

Samuel Driver, Esq.
John Griffith Frith, Esq.
Henry Peter Fuller, Esq.
John Potts Griffin, Esq.
Peter Hood, Esq.
Capt. Hon. G. F. Hotham, R.N.
Life Assurances, Annuities, and Endowments. Three-fourths of profits divided amongst the assured.—Prospectuses, post free, on application.

F. FERGUSON CAMROUX, Manager.

THE FRATERNAL DEMOCRATS' SOIREE in Commemoration of the Birthday of MAXIMILIAN ROBESPIERRE.

will take place in the Literary and Scientific Institution, John-street, Tottenham-court-road, on TUESDAY EVENING, April 3d.; half past six o'clock.—Tickets, 1s. each, to be had of G. Julian Harey, 4, Brunswick-road, Queen's-square, Bloomsbury; Mr. E. Truelove, John-street Institution; and Mr. Watson, 3, Queen's Head-passage, Paternoster-row.

Admission after Tea, at eight o'clock—to the body of the Hall, 3d.; to the Gallery, 4d.

A number of leading Democrats, British and Continental, will take part in the proceedings of the evening.

* The profits arising from the Soiree will be devoted to the assistance of the Polish Refugees at Liverpool.

JOHN PETTIE, Secretary.

NATIONAL REFORM ASSOCIATION SOIREE. The third MONTHLY SOIREE for 1851 will be held at the LONDON TAVERN, on MONDAY, the 26th of April, at six o'clock, when EDWARD MIALL, Esq., will deliver a LECTURE on "THE FRANCHISE, AS AN INSTRUMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S TRAINING." The Chair will be taken by Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY, M.P., the President; at Seven o'clock. Tea and Coffee will be served on admission. To avoid disappointment, members are requested to make early application for tickets at the rooms of the Association, 11, Poulett-street, price is each. The Fourth Soiree will be on Wednesday, May 21, when Mr. C. J. BUNTING, of NORWICH, will deliver a LECTURE. The lectures are published as early as possible, and may be had of all Booksellers. Those delivered by Mr. HUME, M.P., and Mr. FOX, M.P., have been issued.

By order of the Council, Z. HUBBERTSTY, Secretary.

March 26, 1851.

LONDON CO-OPERATIVE STORE, in connection with the Society for Promoting Working Men's Association, 76, Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square.

The London Central Co-operative Agency has now completed its arrangements for transacting the wholesale business of the various co-operative stores.

The books of the agency will be open at all times for the inspection of its customers, and thus the best guarantee will be furnished for honest dealing.

Original packages will be sent whenever the order will admit of it, so that the first cost of the goods may be ascertained by inspecting the invoice.

All goods are purchased at the first markets for ready money. Address, Lloyd Jones, Manager, 76, Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square.

PRIVATE TUITION. M.R. J. SIBREE, M.A. (of the University of London), wishes to take ONE or TWO PUPILS to educate with the Sons of a Gentleman residing in the neighbourhood of Strand. The course of instruction will comprise all the branches of a complete Classical and Mathematical Education (including German and French), such as is required in preparing for a Professional Life, or for entering the Universities. The house Mr. S. occupies is in a healthy and pleasant situation, in one of the most agreeable districts in England. Terms £100 per annum.

The Upper Grange, near Stroud, Gloucestershire. References to S. MARLING, Esq., Ebbley, Gloucestershire.

THE QUEEN'S PARASOL, REGISTERED by THOMAS EVANS and CO., Feb. 19, 1851, is the most elegant style ever produced. To be had of all Drapers and Wholesale Houses; also at the Manufactory, No. 10, WOOD-STREET, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON.

METROPOLITAN and PROVINCIAL JOINT-STOCK BREWERY COMPANY. (Registered Provisionally pursuant to 7 and 8 Vic., cap. 110.) The Directors of this Company are proceeding with an ALLOTMENT of SHARES.

Prospectus and every information may be obtained at the Temporary Offices, Eldon-chambers, Derever-court, Temple, CHARLES HENRY EDMANDS, Sec.

METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION FOR IMPROVING THE DWELLINGS OF THE INDUSTRIAL CLASSES.

Capital £100,000, in shares of £25 each. With Power to Increase the Same. Liability of the Shareholders Limited by Royal Charter to the Amount of their respective Shares, and the rate of Dividend to 5 per cent.

DIRECTORS.

Chairman—Sir Ralph Howard, Bart., M.P.
Deputy Chairman—John William Totte, Esq.

Price Prichard Baly, Esq.
William Egerton Hubbard, Esq.
The Right Hon. the Earl of Edwin Hill, Esq.
Caribb.

The Right Hon. Viscount James Kempsey, Esq.
Lord Claud Hamilton, M.P.
Ebrington, M.P.
William Ellice, Esq.

Edward Enfield, Esq.
Thomas Field Gibson, Esq.
The Right Hon. Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P.
The Right Hon. Lord Haddo.

AUDITORS.

John Finlaison, Esq. | Edward Hurry, Esq.

BANKERS.

Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, Tritton, and Co.

SECRETARY.

Charles Gatliff, Esq., 19, Coleman-street, London.

FORMATION OF BRANCH ASSOCIATIONS. This Association has obtained a Supplemental Charter, dated the 10th of December, 1850, whereby, in addition to the powers granted by their original Charter,

"Power is granted to raise a capital, to be called 'The Provincial Fund,' not exceeding ONE MILLION Sterling, for the purpose of providing, by the alteration of existing Buildings, or the erection of new Buildings, more commodious or healthier Lodgings or Dwellings for the Industrial Classes, in any Provincial Towns or Districts."

Provincial Capital may be raised on request of Twenty householders, rated to the Poor in the District.

Provincial shareholders entitled to Profits, or liable to Leases, on the District Fund to which they subscribe, separately from any other Funds of the Association.

May appoint District Committee.

Applications to be made to Mr. Charles Gatliff, Secretary, 19, Coleman-street, London.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SHARES. To the Directors of the Metropolitan Association for Improving the Dwellings of the Industrial Classes.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

* As the case may be, We, the undersigned, Householders of [Parish, or District] of [do hereby request that you will appropriate the sum of £ [in] Shares of £25 each in the Metropolitan Association for Improving the Dwellings of the Industrial Classes, and call and distinguish the same as the District Shares.

Dated this day of [] 1851.

TOOTHACHE PREVENTED by using BRANDE'S ENAMEL for filling decaying Teeth, and rendering them sound and painless. Price 1s. for several Teeth. The only substance approved by the medical faculty, as being unattended with pain or danger, and the effects of which are permanent.

Sold by all Chemists in the United Kingdom. Twenty really authorized Testimonials accompany each box, with full directions for use. Sent free, by return of post, by J. WILLIS, FLEET-STREET, London, in return for thirteen penny stamps.

CAUTION.—The great success of this preparation has induced numerous unskillful persons to produce spurious imitations, and to copy Brände's Enamel advertisements. It is necessary, therefore, to guard against such impositions by seeing that the name of "John Willis" accompanies each packet.

OFFICIAL CATALOGUE OFFICE,
29, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, and at the Exhibition
Building, Hyde-park.
NOTICE.—Advertisements intended for the First
Edition of a Quarter of a Million of the Small Catalogue,
and for the First Editions of the Illustrated, the German, and
the French Catalogues, should be sent in immediately, in order
that they may be classified and printed forthwith.

- 1. Literature and the Fine Arts.
- 2. New Inventions.
- 3. Agricultural Machines and Implements.
- 4. Insurance Offices.
- 5. House Agency—Hotels, Taverns, and Lodging-houses.
- 6. Places of Public Amusement.
- 7. Railway and Steamboat Arrangements.
- 8. Classification of Trades and Miscellaneous.

SPICER BROTHERS, Wholesale Stationers,
CLOWES AND SONS, Printers,
Joint Contractors to the Royal Commission.

FRESH ARRIVAL OF SUGAR and SNOW-
CURED SPANISH HAMS, ONLY 8d. per lb.—GEORGE
OSBORNE has much pleasure in intimating to his kind
Fathers and the Public generally, that he has again received
through his Agent in Galicia a large quantity of the above
highly-esteemed Hams, so perfectly unique in point of delicious
flavour and quality, that from the numerous testimonials he has
received, they are easily pronounced to be, par excellence, the
finest delicacy of the kind of the present day. His Galician
Agent, however, states that, from the scarcity of Hams of this
quality in the market, an advance has been made in the price;
but notwithstanding this, George Osborne will be enabled to supply
his customers at the above moderate charge. G. O. earnestly
solicits an inspection of his large and superior Stock of Provisions,
comprising

RICHLY-FLAVOURED PEAT-SMOKE BREAKFAST
BACON, 6d. per lb. by the half-side.

Also, a very large supply of delicately SMOKED ON TONGUES,
the flavor of which has been purchased in the market for many years,
from 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. each.

PINE RIPE STILTON, 7d. to 1s. per lb.
GOOD FAMILY CHESHIRE, from 5d. to 6d. per lb.

Other Salted Provisions equally moderate, and of the choicest
description.

LARGE CONSUMERS will effect a saving of at least 10 to 15
per cent. by purchasing at this ESTABLISHMENT.

ALL GOODS carefully packed, and delivered at the respective
RAILWAY TERMINI, as well as within five miles of London,
in expense to the purchaser.

GEORGE OSBORNE, CHEESE AND BACON FACTOR,
OSBORNE HOUSE, 30, LUDGATE-HILL, near St. Paul's.

NO MORE CHAPPED HANDS and FACES.

BURY'S ROYAL POMPADOUR POWDER—Recommended for daily use to remove that redness and irritation remaining on the skin after washing, or from any other cause, as well as possessing the most cooling, softening, and balsamic qualities, and imparting an exquisite whiteness and clearness to the complexion. It is strongly recommended to the notice of mothers and nurses for the use of infants of the most tender age, being far superior to any other powder; also, after sea-bathing, and for gentlemen after shaving, its agreeable effects will be fully tested.

Affid Bury recommends the Royal Pompadour Powder as an article of comfort and utility (not as a cosmetic), but as a plain vegetable powder for the use of both ladies and gentlemen, retaining the virtues and purity in any climate, consequently is well worthy the attention of merchants, captains, and speculators, being a preparation that commands a sale throughout the civilized world.

Sold in packets, 1s. and 2s. 6d. each;—those at 2s. 6d. are equal to three ls. packets; by post for sixteen or forty-eight uncut stamps.—Low, Son, and Benbow, 339, Strand; Winter, 205, Oxford-street; Potter, 6, Frederick-place, Old Kent-road; Stacey & Co., 45, Grosvenor-street; West, King's-road, Chelsea; Tancock, 98, Park-street; Regent's-park; Bellington, 41, Tachbrook-street; Pimlico; Horsham, 88, Westminster Bridge-road; Hunter, Clapham; Blanckley, Clarence-place, Clapham; Park, 7, Colville-terrace, Chelsea; Charlsey, North, Brixton; Luton, 49, Judd-street, Brunswick-square; Phillips, 2, Spencer-terrace, Lower-road, Islington; Congreve, Commercial-road, Peckham; Bury, 10, Exchange; Jones, Pelham Crescent, Brompton; Agents for Ireland—Bewley and Sons, Sackville-street; Kerland, Sackville-street; Worn, Duran-street; Mrs. Birch, Dawson-street; Cope, O'Leary; Belfat; Page, Castle-place; Agents for Scotland—Edinburgh; Stephenson, Leith-street; Geikie, North-birdhill Glasgow; Reid, Stockwell-street; Aberdeen; Walker, Union-street; Montrose; Hill High-street; Perth; Peddie, George-street; Dundee; Neil Murray-gate; Greenock; Brown; Ayr; Corner.

GRATIS! GRATIS! GRATIS!
FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD AND THE SUPPRESSION OF
QUACKERY.

Just published, 96 pages.

EVERY MAN HIS OWN DOCTOR. By ALFRED BARKER, M.D. Sent gratuitously by the Author, for receipt of four postage stamps to prepay it. Address: "Dr. Alfred Barker, 48, Liverpool street, King's-cross, London."

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

"Written in a popular style, and containing the mode of treatment in most of the diseases that 'flesh is heir to.'—*Herald.*
"Nothing but intense desire to benefit his fellow-creatures could have induced the author to undertake the expense of publishing this work for gratuitous circulation."—*Chronicle.*

FRAMPTON'S PILL OF HEALTH. Price 1s. 1d. per box. This excellent Family Pill is a Medicine of long-terms efficacy for correcting all disorders of the Stomach and Bowels, the common symptoms of which are Costiveness, Flatulence, Spasms, Loss of Appetite, Sick Headache, Giddiness, Sense of Fulness after meals, Dizziness of the Eyes, Drowsiness, and Pains in the Stomach and Bowels; Indigestion, producing a Torpid State of the Liver, and a consequent Incapacity of the Bowels, causing a disorganization of every function of the frame, will, in this most excellent preparation, by a little perseverance, be effectually removed. Two or three doses will convince the afflicted of its salutary effects. The Stomach will speedily regain its strength; a healthy action of the liver, bowels, and kidneys will rapidly take place; and instead of listlessness, heat, pain, and jaundiced appearance, strength, activity, and renewed health will be the quick result of taking this medicine, according to the directions accompanying each box.

As a pleasant, safe, easy Aperient, they unite the recommendations of a mild operation with the most successful effect, and no restraint of diet or confinement during their use; and for Elderly People, they will be found to be the most comfortable medicine hitherto prepared.

Sold by T. PHOUT, 229, Strand, London. Price 1s. 1d. and 2s. 6d. per box; and by the vendors of medicine generally throughout the kingdom.

Ask for FRAMPTON'S PILL OF HEALTH, and observe the name and address of "Thomas Prout, 229, Strand, London," on the Government Stamp.

A BOOK THAT ALL SHOULD READ.

FAMILIAR THINGS.

A MISCELLANY OF USEFUL AND ENTERTAINING KNOWLEDGE, EMBELLISHED WITH NUMEROUS WOOD ENGRAVINGS.

32 Pages, foolscap, 8vo, price 2d. Monthly.

There is nothing, however trifling or insignificant it may appear, but contains within itself or its history—when we take the trouble to search it out—much that is interesting, useful, and instructive.

The familiar objects by which we are surrounded, no matter how well known and common they may be accounted, have all connected with them many interesting facts, with which few are acquainted. How little do we regard the things which daily minister to our comforts, yet how curious are the processes through which they must pass, before they are fit for our use or amusement; those we have been in the manufacturing districts must be fully alive to the vast amount of profitable knowledge which lies hid under the simple exterior of our household objects.

The aim and purpose of this work is to convey, in an interesting and popular form, so much of the Natural History, Chemistry, and Commercial Value of familiar things, interspersed with light and pleasing anecdotes and incidents of interest, as shall give its readers a proper idea of the value and importance of the things which they meet with in every-day life, the care, fatigues, and perhaps dangers, with which they are produced, and not to be contented with an imperfect knowledge of themselves, and the things with which they are surrounded.

WHAT HAS BEEN SAID OF THE WORK BY THE PRESS.

The *Court Journal* says, "It is an excellent title, and admirably maintained. This little monthly publication, containing thirty closely-printed pages, ornamented by several well-executed wood engravings, offers to the general public information of a most interesting character, cleverly conveyed, and upon subjects justly called 'Familiar Things,' yet with the origin and general organization or manufacture of which, not alone the masses of the people, but very many moving in the highest circles, and passing for educated, we might almost say learned people, are in profound ignorance. The price is twopence each number, and we unhesitatingly say, a more valuable undertaking we have not seen. We have no doubt, if its proprietors carry it out in the same spirit as that evinced by the first two numbers, that it will find a place not alone upon the homely table of our hard-working countrymen, but amongst the most elaborate treatises which crowd the luxuriously-furnished libraries of the rich."

An article upon 'The Church Clock' furnishes us with a quotation illustrative of the care and research which have been bestowed upon the subjects treated upon, the principal merit being the simplicity of language and absence of technicality in which the information is conveyed."

The *Bradford Observer* calls attention to "Familiar Things," and says, "It is as valuable in its character as it is modest in its appearance. A cup of tea, a piece of sponge, a church clock, a street lamp, are not very receding subjects; but this little 'Cyclopaedia' reveals an amount of historical, philosophical, and other information respecting them, which thousands would never dream of."

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